

Insects: Friends or Foes?

We often think of insects as pollinators or pests, but some play other exciting roles in the garden!

The plants within these two bins attract beneficial insects that are parasites or predators.

Predatory insects capture and eat harmful insects such as aphids. **Parasitic insects** lay their eggs on pest hosts, then feed on them as they hatch. This helps reduce harmful insects.

Yarrow is known to attract tiny parasitic wasps, but don't worry—they can't sting! These wasps lay eggs on immature whiteflies, which damage plants we are trying to grow.



parasitic wasps

Dill, fennel, and parsley flowers attract hoverflies, which look similar to bees but cannot sting. They help control aphids by laying their eggs near aphid colonies and feeding on them as they hatch.



hover flies

Lemon Gem marigolds attract ladybugs, which are a favorite of farmers and gardeners. They are natural predators of many plant pests.



ladybugs

Consider adding these plants to your home garden to attract pollinators and other beneficial insects.