

6TH-  
12TH

# GARDEN BUGS: FRIEND OR FOE?

## Beneficial Insects, Insect Pests, and Integrated Pest Management



Lady Bug

Our garden friend, the **Lady Bug**, is considered a **beneficial insect** in the garden because they keep **insect pest** populations down. Their favorite snack is the **Aphid**, a *garden foe* that spends their time sucking sugars from garden plants!

Can you find the **Aphid** on the next page?

**Beneficial Insects:** these insects help keep the garden balanced by eating or out-number our garden foes, or offer a helpful service to the environment (like pollination).



## More Garden Friends (Beneficial Insects):



Praying Mantis  
I eat many garden foes!



Honey Bee  
I help flowers!



Yellow Garden Spider  
I eat many garden foes.



Monarch  
I love milkweed flowers.

Inspired by Shelburne Farms "Garden Bugs: Friend or Foe?" Resource, Created by Jess Barbini, 2020

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Tomato hornworm

The **Tomato Hornworm**, also known as the Hawk Moth when fully grown, loves to eat tomatoes, peppers, and eggplants. This *garden foe*, when left unchecked, can cause major damage in your growing space.

What can you do if you notice *garden foes* in your garden? Check out the next page for more information on a technique called **Integrated Pest Management**.

**Insect pest:** these insects tend to cause damage to garden plants when the environment is out of balance.



### More Garden Foes (Insect Pests):



Aphids

I love to suck the sugars out of garden plants!



Cabbage looper

Like my name, I love some tasty cabbage.



Cucumber Beetle

I am very good at eating large holes in tasty cucumber plants.

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All living organisms play critical roles in our ecosystem!

The first step to reducing insect pest issues is to make sure you have healthy plants and thriving soil from the start of the season. All of us face issues in our garden and **Integrated Pest Management** can be a useful way of working thoughtfully in your garden, reducing pesticide use, and keeping your garden healthy.

**Integrated Pest Management (IPM):** IPM is not a single method, but a system of evaluations, decisions, and controls to maintain balance in your growing space.



### Integrated Pest Management Basics

**Identify and Monitor:** Know the bugs you're working with! Work with a garden buddy to learn your garden bugs and keep checking them throughout the season.

**Set Thresholds:** Once you are aware of the bugs in your garden, you must decide how big of an issue they pose. Are the pests only on a few plants and can be removed by hand, or is it a larger issue that needs more attention?

**Prevention:** Prevent pest issues by removing things that attract pests, ex. garbage, standing water, overgrown vegetation, diseased plants, and feeding your soil.

**Control:** If you decide your pest issue needs more attention (or passes your threshold), control can look like a number of things, including hand-picking, trapping, plant barriers (ie. marigolds, etc.), and targeted pesticide use when absolutely necessary.

**Try keeping a garden journal next season to keep track of our garden friends and foes!**



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