



## 5.2 Plants that attract beneficial insects

Buffers can be planted with plants to attract beneficial insects that prey on insect pests. Considerations include selecting plants that bloom sequentially throughout the growing season and avoid plants that enhance pest abundance.

Native plants are preferred because these species attract native beneficial insects and are less likely to become agricultural weeds. The table provides a list of beneficial insects, the pests the beneficial insects prey on, and the plants or habitats that attract the beneficial insects.

Plants that Attract Beneficial Insects		
Beneficial	Pests	Plants/Habitat
<b>Assassin bug</b> (Reduviidae family)	Many insects including flies and large caterpillars	Permanent plantings for shelter (e.g., windbreaks)
<b>Bees-Butterflies</b> (Many families)	None but important for pollination	Pea, borage, and aster families, milkweeds, butterfly bush, others
<b>Braconid wasp</b> (Braconidae family)	Armyworm, cabbageworm, codling moth, gypsy moth, European corn borer, aphid, caterpillars, and other insects	Nectar plants with small flowers, yarrow, sunflower, cowparsnip
<b>Damsel bug</b> (Nabidae family)	Aphid, thrips, leafhopper, treehopper, caterpillars	Aster family, yarrow, common boneset
<b>Ground beetle</b> (Carabidae family)	Slug, snail, cutworm, Colorado potato beetle, gypsy moth, caterpillars, weed seeds	Amaranth, bunch grasses, permanent plantings for shelter

<b>Plants that Attract Beneficial Insects</b>		
<b>Beneficial</b>	<b>Pests</b>	<b>Plants/Habitat</b>
<b>Hover fly</b> (Syrphidae family)	Aphid	Carrot and aster family (coreopsis, sunflowers, goldenrod), cowparsnip, common boneset
<b>Lacewing</b> (Chrysopidae family)	Soft bodied insects including aphid, thrips, European corn borer, mealybug, scale, mite	Carrot and aster family (coreopsis, sunflowers, goldenrod)
<b>Ladybug beetle</b> (Coccinellidae family)	Aphid, spider mite, European corn borer, mealybug	Aster family, butterfly weed, native grasses, giant hyssop, cowparsnip, yarrow, black locust
<b>Minute Pirate Bug</b> (Anthocorid family)	Thrips, spider mite, leafhopper, corn earworm, small caterpillars, and other insects	Carrot and aster family (daisies, sunflowers, yarrow, goldenrod), blue elderberry, potentilla, giant hyssop, common boneset, and willows
<b>Rove beetle</b> (Staphylinidae family)	Aphid, nematode, flies	Native grasses, permanent plantings for shelter
<b>Spider</b> (Salticidae, Thomisidae, and other families)	Many insects	Carrot and aster family, giant hyssop
<b>Spined soldier bug</b> ( <i>Podisus maculiventris</i> )	Armyworm, sawfly, Colorado potato beetle, Mexican bean beetle	Aster family (sunflowers, yarrow)
<b>Tachinid fly</b> (Tachinidae family)	Cutworm, armyworm, May beetle, gypsy moth, squash bug	Carrot and aster family, amaranth
<b>Tiger beetle</b> (Cicindelidae family)	Many insects	Amaranth, bunch grasses, permanent plantings for shelter
<b>Chalcid wasps</b> (many families including Trichogrammatidae)	Spruce budworm, cotton bollworm, tomato hornworm, corn earworm, corn borer, codling moth	Carrot and aster family (daisies, sunflowers, yarrow, goldenrod), potentilla, giant hyssop, cowparsnip, common boneset

## 5.2 References

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