

CHRIS' CORNER



Some Bugs are our Friends

Is it hot enough for you yet? Can you feel the humidity? It is that time of year again when the only gardening you are interested in is looking out your window and checking your garden from the cool confines of your home. Lately in the landscape I have noticed a few beneficial insects that are helping us out in the garden, despite the hot weather.

Not all bugs are our enemies. There are some insects that actually help us out by keeping some of those nuisance pests in check. Let's look at some types of insects that are our friends in the garden:

- **Preying insects:** This would include spiders, some types of beetles, flies and lacewings.
- **Parasitizing insects:** This would include small wasps which lay eggs on insect pests or on the eggs of insect pests.
- **Pollinators:** This would include honeybees, butterflies and moths which helps plants bear fruit.
- **Small beneficial animals:** This would include birds and bats that feed on insect pests.

In order to attract beneficial insects to your garden or other parts of your landscape, include plants to provide a variety of food sources. It would also be a good idea to provide those beneficials some shelter like ground cover or other plant materials.

Also consider using alternative control methods that will not harm the beneficials. If you must use a pesticide, consider one that targets a specific pest rather than a broad-spectrum product. Keep your plants and lawn healthy. This will go a long way in promoting a healthy ecosystem that your beneficials will love!

Until next time, happy gardening!



Christopher Caputo