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## **Fireflies**

Today on Gardening in a Minute: fireflies.

Fireflies, or lightning bugs, are a familiar sight to many of us, although perhaps less so to those who grew up in urban areas.

Fireflies are beetles that often attract mates with luminescent abdomens, and each species has a different pattern of flashes.

These flashing wonders tend to come out at dusk or nightfall in woods or wetlands during the summer. Their chemical light is fascinating because it emits almost no heat, unlike light produced by electricity.

Some scientists think fireflies can be deterred by brightly lit urban areas, and that their populations may be decreasing because of mosquito spraying. To provide habitat for fireflies in your landscape, reduce or eliminate artificial lighting and keep pesticides to a minimum.

If you're lucky, these insects will light up your summer nights!

For more information about fireflies and many other gardening topics, contact your county Extension office or visit Gardening in a Minute dot com.

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