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## **Attracting and Safeguarding Beneficial Insects**

Today on Gardening in a Minute: attracting and safeguarding beneficial insects.

Beneficial insects can do a lot for a garden, and attracting and safeguarding them will help your landscape thrive.

Beneficials pollinate plants, contribute to the decay of organic matter, and attack other insects and mites that are considered to be pests.

The best thing you can do for beneficial insects is learn to recognize them. Adult ladybird beetles and lacewings are easy to identify, but their immature forms look entirely different.

Remember that many pesticides kill not only pest insects but also beneficials. If you do use a pesticide, choose one that targets only the pests you're having trouble with.

Finally, provide the pollen and nectar sources that beneficial insects like. Try selecting a wide variety of plants with many small flowers that bloom at different times of the year.

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

Gardening in a Minute is a production of the University of Florida's Center for Landscape Conservation and Ecology, IFAS Extension, and WUFT-FM.

*your solution for Florida-friendly gardening*