Dragonflies

Today on Gardening in a Minute: dragonflies.

Dragonflies are beneficial insects that have been around for more than 300 million years. Their favorite foods include mosquitoes and flies, so their presence is a good sign!

Dragonflies can fly at speeds up to 30 miles per hour to avoid predators like birds and frogs. Huge compound eyes help them see their prey, which they catch in mid-air. Dragonflies do not sting or bite people.

Most dragonfly females lay their eggs in mud or water. The nymphs hatch within a few weeks and then live in the water for up to two years.

Dragonflies tend to live in areas near ponds, rivers, wetlands, or lakes. Having a garden pond will attract them, and using few or no pesticides will ensure they stick around.

For more information about dragonflies 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.