Sustainable Ewe

The Home of Sustainability in Central Hawke's Bay



Attracting Bees and Beneficial Animals in the Garden

Animal	Plants to Attract	Will Help Combat
Beetles	Litter and mulch	Fly larvae, moths, grasshoppers, army worms, cut worms, slugs
Centipedes	Dark, damp places	Caterpillars and slugs
Dragonflies	Ponds. Protected from wind, and predators such as birds and frogs	Mosquitoes, white butterflies, passion vine hoppers
Frogs	Water with plenty of damp undergrowth	Slugs, worms, insects
Harvestmen	A diverse range of plants	Insects, slugs, caterpillar eggs
Hoverflies	Queen Anne's lace, Parsnip, Angelica, Phacella, Borage	Aphids, Scale, Mites, young caterpillars
Lacewings	Queen Anne's Lace, Parsnip, Angelica	Lacewing maggots feed on Aphids, scale, mealy bugs, mites, whitefly, and moth eggs.
Ladybirds and Larvae	Swan Plants, Borage, Angelica	Aphids, whitefly, mealy bugs, mites, scale insects, psyllids
Lizards	Warm sheltered corners – rocks against a fence with foliage for hiding	Insects, slugs, ants and flies
Parasitic Wasps	Wild flowers – particularly Parsnip, Angelica, Fennel, Queen Anne's Lace	Lay their eggs in caterpillars or the chrysalis of caterpillars. Some aphids and whitefly.
Praying Mantis	A diverse range of plants particularly fennel	Adult caterpillars, bugs, beetles, flies, young aphids, leaf hoppers
Predatory Mites	Warmth and shelter.	Spider mites, caterpillars
Spiders	A diverse range of plants and places	Large range on insects

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Attracting Bees

There are some simple ways to attract bees to your garden. For example selecting single bloom flowers over double or triple blooms. Avoid highly modified blooms in favour of the more simple traditional flowers – it is easier to land on a simple flower than it is to negotiate lots of frilly petals to reach nectar. Variety is key, after all you wouldn't want the same meal each and every day! Having plants that bloom at different times allows for an ongoing food source. Blue, purple, white and yellow-flowering plants are their favourites. They can't see the colour red – it appears as black – but reddish wavelengths such as orange can be seen

The following are some of the trees and plants will attract bees to your garden

- Basil (Ocimum basilicum)
- Chives (Allium schoenoprasum)
- Comfrey (Symphytum officinale L.)
- Cucumber, melon (Cucumis spp.)
- Echinacea (Echinacea purpurea)
- Phacelia (Phacelia tanacetifolia)
- Pot marigold (Calendula officinalis)
- Squash, pumpkin (Cucurbita spp.)
- Sunflower (Helianthus annuus)
- Sweetcorn (Zea mays)

- Apple (Malus spp.)
- Bay laurel (Laurus nobilis)
- Borage (Borago officinalis)
- Kiwifruit (Actinidia deliciosa)
- Lavender (Lavandula spp.)
- Lemon, orange, grapefruit (Citrus spp.)
- Pear (Pyrus spp.)
- Plum, peach (Prunus spp.)
- Rosemary (Rosmarinus officinalis)
- Sage (Salvia officinalis)

Deterrent Plants

Just with attracting good insects the following will help deter bad insects

- Alliums (Garlic, Onions, Chives) General repellent
- Artemsia General repellent
- Cleome Green shield bug (catch crop)
- Mint White Cabbage Butterflies, Aphids, Ants, Mosquitoes, Beetles
- Mustard Aphid repellent. White cabbage butterflies and caterpillars (catch crop)
- Nasturtiums Aphids, cabbage worms, woolly aphids, whitefly
- Sage General repellent
- Santolina General repellent
- Tansy General repellent
- Wormwood General repellent