

# ATTRACTING BENEFICIAL INSECTS

## Nature Conservation Information Sheet



## Encouraging the good guys

Home gardens provide a fantastic opportunity to recreate habitats for our local wildlife – including insects. Beneficial insects provide a range of services in the garden including pollination and pest control. Insects also provide an important food source to many small native birds and mammals.

### Planting Natives

Most insects can't see red so make sure you plant plenty of blue, purple, white and yellow flowers to bring them in. Choose plants with prolific flowers and a range of flowering times so food is always available. Remember that choosing local native species to plant in your garden is the best way to support our local insects.

#### *What to plant*

Some popular insect attracting natives are...

- Local native daisies
- Eucalypts
- Hakeas
- Spyridium (basket bush)
- Tea trees and Melaleucas
- Hardenbergia and other peas
- Local wattles

Butterflies in particular are attracted to...

- Jacksonia sternbergiana
- Grevillea crithmifolia
- Geraldton wax
- Acacia saligna and cyclops
- Pimeleas
- Native grasses

### Avoiding Chemicals

Avoid using chemicals in your home and garden as these can have unintended consequences for your beneficial insects. Research natural alternatives and let nature take control in the garden.

## Creating Habitat

A variety of habitats are required by the various insect lifecycle stages.

- Thick mulch and piles of logs and rocks provide great insect habitat
- Some sheltered shrubby areas are important to escape the weather and lay eggs
- The thick bark on old trees can house a host of critters

## Building Bee Hotels

Why not install a few bee hotels to encourage insects to become permanent residents.

- Drill holes of various sizes in logs and clay bricks
- Bundle up some lengths of bamboo



## Water and Sunshine

Butterflies in particular need warm sunny spots that are sheltered from the wind. Locate small piles of rocks and pebbles to catch the early morning sun.

Many insects need to drink but can drown in deep water

- Fill a container with pebbles then add water so that they can safely land and drink without drowning
- Damp sand is preferred by many butterflies and bees so think about incorporating a sandy beach into a water feature (see the [Wildlife Friendly Gardens](#) for details)
- Floating plants can also provide a safe place for insects to drink from

## Resources

For more information follow these links

<https://perthzoo.wa.gov.au/butterfly-friendly-gardens>

<https://www.sgaonline.org.au/butterflies/>

<https://blog.csiro.au/how-to-make-your-garden-native-bee-friendly/>

<https://www.aussiebee.com.au/index.html>



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