

The Earth Friendly Alternative to Insecticides: Native Plants That Support Conservation Biological Control in Georgia

CBC plant - A plant that attracts predatory or parasitoid insects that prey upon pest insects.

Beneficial insects need shelter and another source of food in their diet such as the sugars from flowers to mature their eggs. Parasitoids lay their eggs on caterpillars which will hatch and kill them. Other beneficials will lay their eggs on plants, the larvae then hatch and feed on pests.



- Use a wide variety of attractive plants. Plants that flower at different times of the year can provide beneficials with nectar and pollen when they need it.
- Plantings that are at least 4' by 4' of each variety work best at attracting beneficials.
- A bird bath or backyard water feature not only attracts birds (another predator of insects), but also attracts beneficials.
- Tolerate minor pest infestations. The beneficial insects will get the memo before you do. This will provide another food source for the beneficials and help keep them in your yard.

Trees

Cornus florida (Flowering dogwood)
Crataegus mollis (Downy hawthorn)
Prunus serotina (Black cherry)
Salix nigra (Black willow)
Tilia americana (American basswood)

Shrubs

Ceanothus americanus (New Jersey tea)
Salix cordata (Heartleaf willow)
Viburnum dentatum (Southern arrowwood)
Viburnum prunifolium (Blackhaw)

Forbs

Achillea millefolium (Common yarrow)
Ageratina altissima (White snakeroot)
Allium cernuum (Nodding onion)
Angelica venenosa (Harry Angelica)
Antennaria plantaginifolia (Woman's tobacco)
Apocynum androsaemifolium (Spreading dogbane)
Apocynum cannabinum (Indian hemp)
Arnoglossum atriplicifolium (Pale indian plantain)
Bidens aristosa (Bearded beggarticks)
Bidens laevis (Smooth beggartick)
Chamaecrista fasciculata (Partridge pea)
Cicuta maculata (Spotted water hemlock)
Comandra umbellata (Bastard toadflax)
Conoclinium coelestinum (Blue mistflower)
Coreopsis lanceolata (Lanceleaf coreopsis)
Eriogonum tomentosum (Dog-tongue Buckwheat)
Eryngium yuccifolium (Rattlesnake master)
Eupatorium perfoliatum (Common boneset)
Heliopsis helianthoides (Smooth oxeye)

Heracleum maximum (Common cowparsnip)
Krigia biflora (Two-flower dwarf dandelion)
Lobelia siphilitica (Great blue lobelia)
Monarda punctata (Spotted beebalm)
Oxypolis rigidior (Stiff cowbane)
Pseudognaphalium obtusifolium (Sweet everlasting)
Ranunculus fascicularis (Early buttercup)
Silphium perfoliatum (Cup plant)
Sium suave (Hemlock waterparsnip)
Symphotrichum lateriflorum var. *lateriflorum* (Calico aster)(the only aster)
Veronicastrum virginicum (Culver's root)
Zizia aptera (Heart-leaved meadow parsnip)
Zizia aurea (Golden zizia)

Whole Genera

Asclepias genus (milkweeds sps.)
Erigeron genus (fleabane sps.)
Pycnanthemum genus (most mountain mints)
Rhus genus (most sumacs)
Sambucus genus (most elderberries)
Solidago genus (Goldenrod sps.)

References:

<https://www.wildflower.org/plants/>
<https://permaculturenews.org/2014/10/04/plants-attract-beneficial-insects/>
<https://crawford.tardigrade.net/bugs/BugofMonth09.html>