

HUME CITY COUNCIL GOOD BUG, BAD BUG

The key to a healthy garden is a healthy garden ecosystem. Our gardens are part of the world around them and like all things in nature, it's about balance.

Our gardens have millions of insect living in them, whether we see them or not, but we only tend to really notice them when the ecosystem is out of balance and an insect population grows and over populates an area. Remember, this doesn't mean we need to eradicate that particular insect, we just need to help bring it back into balance. To do this, avoid harmful synthetic pesticides which can kill all the insects in your garden and can sometimes leave behind the ones doing the most harm with no natural predators to keep them in check.

Remember to wait if the population of insects you see is actually having a negative effect on your plant before acting. Keep a close eye on them, but you might see an explosion of a population, only to have them disappear a couple weeks later with no negative impact on the surrounding plants

To make sure you keep a healthy garden, balance your garden with lots of different plants, with different types of flowers which will attract beneficial insects to your garden throughout the year. Fragrant flowers are particularly good for bees and butterflies.

Also remember, most fruit and vegies rely on the pollination of insects, so finding plants that attract bees and butterflies into your garden will improve your crop yields.

Bad Bugs (bugs we want smaller populations of)



Aphids



Thrips



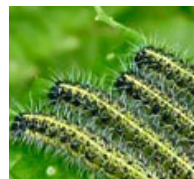
Scale



Cochineal



Citrus Gall Wasp

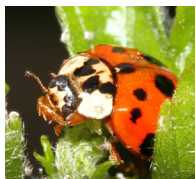


Caterpillars



Two spotted & spider mites

Good Bugs (bugs we want to attract)



Ladybug



Bee



Butterfly



Wasps, native



Lacewing



Nematodes



Soldier Beetle

If you have an overpopulation of an insect that is doing harm, a way to bring them into balance is to make a solution out of vegetable oil and water, or use organic Eco-Oil. For caterpillars, a natural and organic soil bacteria, sold as Dipel is recommended. But remember, a few damaged leaves are no problem for a plant and part of a healthy garden.