

Beneficial Considerations on Columbia Blossom Orchard

A brief summary by Jim Reed

Have planted cover crops of alfalfa, sub-terranean clover, crimson clover, and yellow clover. Canola comes up in some places.

Have a hedgerow planted to prevent pesticide drift from neighboring applications. It contains arborvitae (*Thuja*), European hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*), hedge maple (*Acer*), and poplars. There are also poplars planted in the orchard as wind breaks but they will be taken out soon.

Have planted Integrated Fertility Management's, Bug and Breakfast Blend ** along the road and other places.

Have seeded Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*) in with some of my clover plantings. This doesn't always flower as it is mowed often.

Over the years, I have released predatory mites, lacewings, lady bird beetles and *Trichogramma* but I don't think it was cost effective. I prefer to augment native populations of beneficials.

There are lots of lacewings here, mostly green and sometimes brown.

**Bug and Breakfast Blend is a complement of legumes and non-legumes sold as a mix for habitat and food source for beneficial insects. It is designed for the drier climate of the interior Northwest. It contains buckwheat, hairy vetch, crimson, red, yellow, sweet and white clovers, dill, yarrow, coreopsis, coriander, and barley. It is available from Integrated Fertility Management at 1-800-332-3179 or www.agecology.com. It sells for \$6.95 a pound.