

Insectary Plantings

Insectary Plants Defined

'**Insectary plantings**' refers to the use of flowering plants which contain resources in the form of nectar and pollen for natural enemies of crop pests and other beneficials.

In addition to floral resources, these plantings can provide alternate prey or host food and shelter for certain natural enemies.

Insectary Planting Tactics

Insectary plants can be included in cropping systems in many different configurations, including:



Within the crop field or orchard in strips or smaller blocks



Among hedgerow plants, or as perennial or annual plantings in crop margins



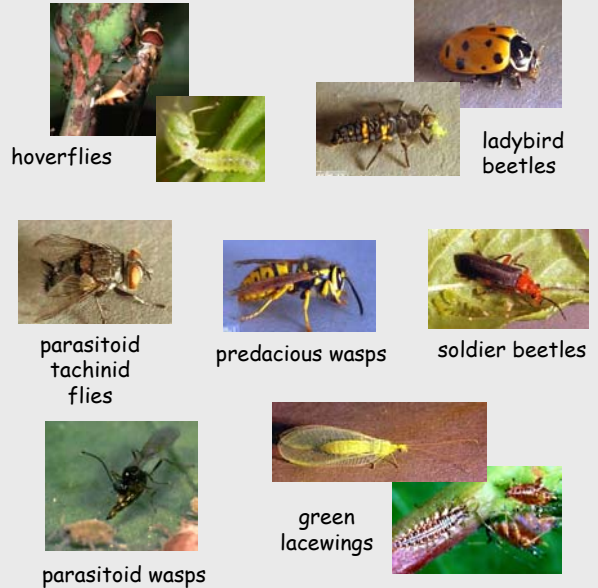
By selectively conserving existing insectary plants



In cover crops

Types of Natural Enemies which Make Use of these Plantings

If carefully selected, the *floral resources* of insectary plants can potentially attract, retain, and/or enhance the reproduction, longevity and effectiveness of a wide range of natural enemies, especially:



hoverflies

ladybird beetles

parasitoid tachinid flies

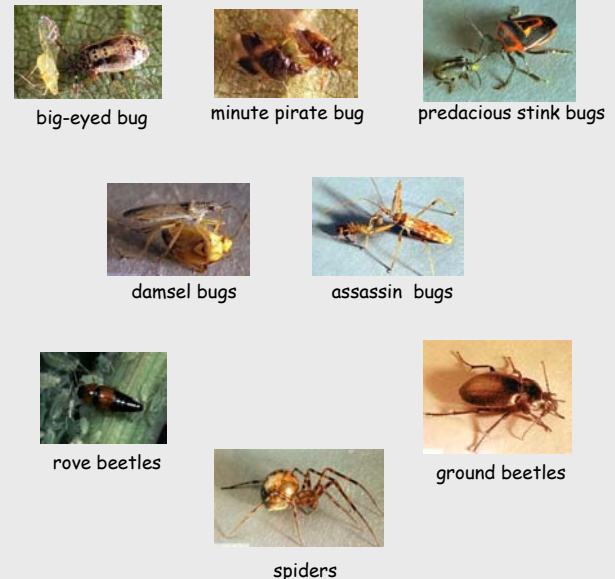
predacious wasps

soldier beetles

parasitoid wasps

green lacewings

Other common natural enemies can also be attracted and enhanced by the *alternate prey* or *host food* and *shelter* found in some insectary plantings, such as:



big-eyed bug

minute pirate bug

predacious stink bugs

damsel bugs

assassin bugs

rove beetles

ground beetles

spiders