

The Good Bugs

Good Bug Checklist — a printable companion to Guide 3 of 6

Stop and Look

- ☐ Stop spraying — even "natural" sprays — and see what happens over the next couple of weeks.
- ☐ Before treating anything, identify what's actually there. A cluster of aphids with ladybugs nearby doesn't need your help.
- ☐ Spend 10 minutes just sitting near your garden and watching who's already there.

Feed and Shelter Them

- ☐ Plant one flowering plant near your vegetables — a marigold, sunflower, or an herb you'll let bloom.
- ☐ Set out a shallow water dish with pebbles, somewhere sunny.
- ☐ Leave one wild corner — a leaf pile, hollow stems, or a bare soil patch for ground-nesting bees.
- ☐ Pair a companion plant with something you're already growing — marigolds with tomatoes is the easiest start.

If You Do See a Real Problem

- ☐ Try hand-picking or a strong spray of water first — most small outbreaks don't need anything stronger.
- ☐ If you must spray, spot-treat only the affected plant, and do it at dusk when pollinators aren't active.
- ☐ Wait a few days before judging results — beneficial insects often need a little time to catch up to a pest bloom.

Notice the Value

- ☐ Notice one thing your beneficial insects did for you this week, whether that's a pollinated flower, a pest that never became a problem, or richer soil.
- ☐ Skip a pesticide purchase you would have made in past years, now that beneficials are already on the job.

Condensed from RootDelight's Good Bugs Welcome and Supporting Beneficial Insects courses. Read the full guide and check your progress online at rootdelight.com/rd_courses/the_good_bugs.html.