

9 Cheap Ways To Naturally Attract Pollinators



Pollinators are important to your garden. If you want a sustainable garden, then you'll want to find ways to naturally attract pollinators. And if you want a frugal garden, then you'll need to figure out how to do so cheaply. Luckily, there are a lot of options for you to do so.

What Are Pollinators?

I confess that I always think of bees when I think of pollinators. They're the quintessential ones. However, there are actually quite a few different pollinators. So, what does this term even mean?

Pollinators are any animal that helps to transfer pollen from the stamens to the stigma of plants. In other words, they facilitate plant mating. This leads to seeds and fruits. Bees

are pollinators. However, so are birds, butterflies, moths, flies, and beetles. There are even some mammals like mice and bats that can help pollinate.

Why Do You Want to Naturally Attract Pollinators To Your Garden?

Pollinators are a good thing. Without proper pollination, many plants would not be able to produce viable seeds or fruits. Therefore, you want to [bring them to your garden](#). Benefits when you naturally attract pollinators to your garden include:

Increased And Improved Yields

With more efficient pollination, your garden's crop yields are likely to increase. They promote more uniform and abundant harvests. Pollinators can even improve fruit quality! Whether you're growing fruits, vegetables, or seeds, the presence of pollinators can lead to higher productivity and better overall yields.

Biodiversity

Pollinators contribute to the overall biodiversity and ecological balance of your garden. They facilitate cross-pollination among different plant species, This aids in genetic diversity and the survival of various plant populations. By attracting pollinators, you promote a diverse range of flowering plants, which in turn supports a broader array of wildlife and beneficial insects in your garden. It's a beautiful cycle.

Ecosystem Services

Pollinators provide invaluable ecosystem services beyond pollination. They contribute to the broader ecological functioning of ecosystems, including habitat creation, food

web support, and nutrient recycling. By attracting pollinators, you enhance the ecological resilience and health of your garden, creating a more balanced and self-sustaining ecosystem.

Conservation

Attracting pollinators to your garden contributes to the conservation and protection of these vital species. Many pollinators, including certain bee species, face population declines due to habitat loss, pesticide exposure, and other factors. By providing a welcoming environment with a variety of nectar-rich flowers and suitable nesting habitats, you can support pollinator populations and contribute to their conservation. This is a great thing for the world.

Did you know that you can [certify your habitat to help wildlife](#)?!

Garden Beauty and Joy

Pollinators, such as butterflies and hummingbirds, add a vibrant and colorful element to your garden. Their presence enhances the aesthetic appeal of your outdoor space. This creates a visually appealing and more dynamic environment. Watching pollinators in action can be a delightful and educational experience, bringing joy and wonder to both adults and children. In other words, it is simply fun to naturally attract pollinators to your garden.

Cheap Ways To Naturally Attract Pollinators

Now that you're sold on the idea of attracting pollinators to your garden, how can you do it? Here are some of the best cheap ways to naturally attract pollinators:

Plant Native Wildflowers

Native wildflowers are already well-adapted to the local ecosystem. Plus, they provide abundant nectar and pollen resources. Therefore, they attract a wide range of pollinators, including bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds, with their diverse colors, shapes, and scents. Native plants also support local biodiversity and help maintain the ecological balance of your region. This is one of the best cheap ways to naturally attract pollinators while adding beauty to your garden.

Create Habitat Diversity

Provide a variety of habitats and shelter options to attract different pollinator species. Incorporate elements like flowering shrubs, trees, grasses, and nesting sites such as log piles or rock crevices. These habitats offer nesting opportunities, resting places, and protection from predators. Therefore, they are key to making your garden more inviting to pollinators.

Provide Water Sources

Place shallow dishes or bowls filled with water in your garden to provide a water source for pollinators. Adding pebbles or stones to the container allows insects to perch safely while drinking. Water sources are particularly crucial in hot and dry climates.

Avoid Pesticides

Minimize or eliminate the use of pesticides in your garden. Pesticides can be harmful to pollinators, disrupting their behavior, health, and reproduction. Embracing organic gardening practices helps create a safe and welcoming environment for pollinators, allowing them to thrive and carry out their important pollination role.

Plant a Succession of Blooming Plants

Select a diverse array of flowering plants that bloom at different times throughout the growing season. This ensures a continuous food supply for pollinators from spring to fall. By providing a succession of blooms, you support pollinators throughout their lifecycle, from early-season emergence to late-season preparations for winter.

Provide Host Plants for Caterpillars

Many pollinators, such as butterflies, require specific host plants for their caterpillars to feed on. Research and include host plants in your garden that cater to the needs of particular pollinator species. By supporting caterpillar development, you encourage the presence of adult butterflies and contribute to their life cycle.

Minimize Garden Disturbances

Limit excessive garden clean-up and leave some areas undisturbed. Some pollinators, such as ground-nesting bees, require bare soil or leaf litter for nesting. Allow natural debris and leave patches of bare ground. In this way, you provide nesting sites and overwintering habitat for these beneficial insects.

Use Group Plantings

Plant flowers in clusters or groups rather than single plants scattered across the garden. Groupings provide a concentrated and easily recognizable food source for pollinators, increasing the efficiency of their foraging. This way, they can visit multiple flowers in one area, maximizing their access to nectar and pollen resources.

Be The Bee

In other words, ask yourself if you would come to this garden if you were bee. What would need to be different in order to bring you to buzz and pollinate there? Use your intuition to help guide you to enhancing your garden so that it naturally attracts pollinators.

Read More:

- [Top 9 Common Plant Pests and How to Control Them](#)
 - [Upcycling in the Garden: Everyday Items That Can Be Functional Garden Decorations](#)
 - [Natural Ways to Control Fungus in Plants](#)
-

Good Bugs for the Garden



How much gardening media is consumed with pest control topics? Gardening store shelves are filled with pesticides, and organic gardening books are full of tactics to beat bugs with

more natural tools. But having a bug-free garden is a bad thing. Here are some good bugs for the garden.

Why are Bugs Beneficial to a Garden?

Your garden is an ecosystem that relies on healthy soil. And bugs play a massive part in maintaining the soil. So much so that some soil scientists argue that [invertebrate life can indicate healthy soil](#). Bugs can add organic matter to the soil, increase aeration, change the pH, increase drainage, and even deter other bugs from coming into your garden.

What Bugs are Good for the Garden?

Of course, there are some bugs you want to keep out of the garden, but what invertebrates are beneficial for the garden?

Worms

They eat all the organic matter that falls to the ground and becomes incorporated into the soil. This means they take nutrients that plants can't use and turn them into something they can. They also aerate the soil as they move through it. This can bring much needed oxygen into the soil and increase the area's drainage. If you start working in the soil and notice the soil is gathered into tiny little pebbles, you probably have a good amount of worms in the ground.

If you want to bring more worms into your garden, you can buy them and introduce them. But please be careful. Buy worms that are native to your area so they will be adapted to live in the area. For North America, the most popular type is Red Wigglers (*Eisenia Foetida*).

Wolf Spiders

Wolf spiders get big and are quite capable of giving you a scare when you find one in the garden. But you have nothing to fear.

They will not hurt the plants or you and are not venomous. But they are predators that live on the ground without a web and will eat the bugs in your garden that will eat your plants. So they are like free pest control. And in the fall, you may see a mother wolf spider carrying dozens of babies on her back. It was pretty shocking the first time I saw it, but it is a great way to know they were doing their job and eating plenty of pests.

Garden Spiders

These are typically big, bright yellow, and black in North America. They spin webs to trap pests to eat them. They are usually very calm and fun to watch while spinning their webs.

Lady Bugs

Lady bugs [\(not to be confused with Asian Lady Beetles\)](#) eat aphids, and they do it aggressively. They eat scale, mealybugs, mites, eggs, and other soft-body invertebrates. To make your garden place ladybugs want to be, you should plant things with yellow or white flowers like dill, cilantro, fennel, or chives.

Conclusion

If you're looking to create a healthy and thriving garden, you need to welcome good bugs into the mix. These beneficial insects will help keep harmful pests in check, while also pollinating your plants and providing other important services. So don't be afraid to let them in – your garden will be all the better for it.

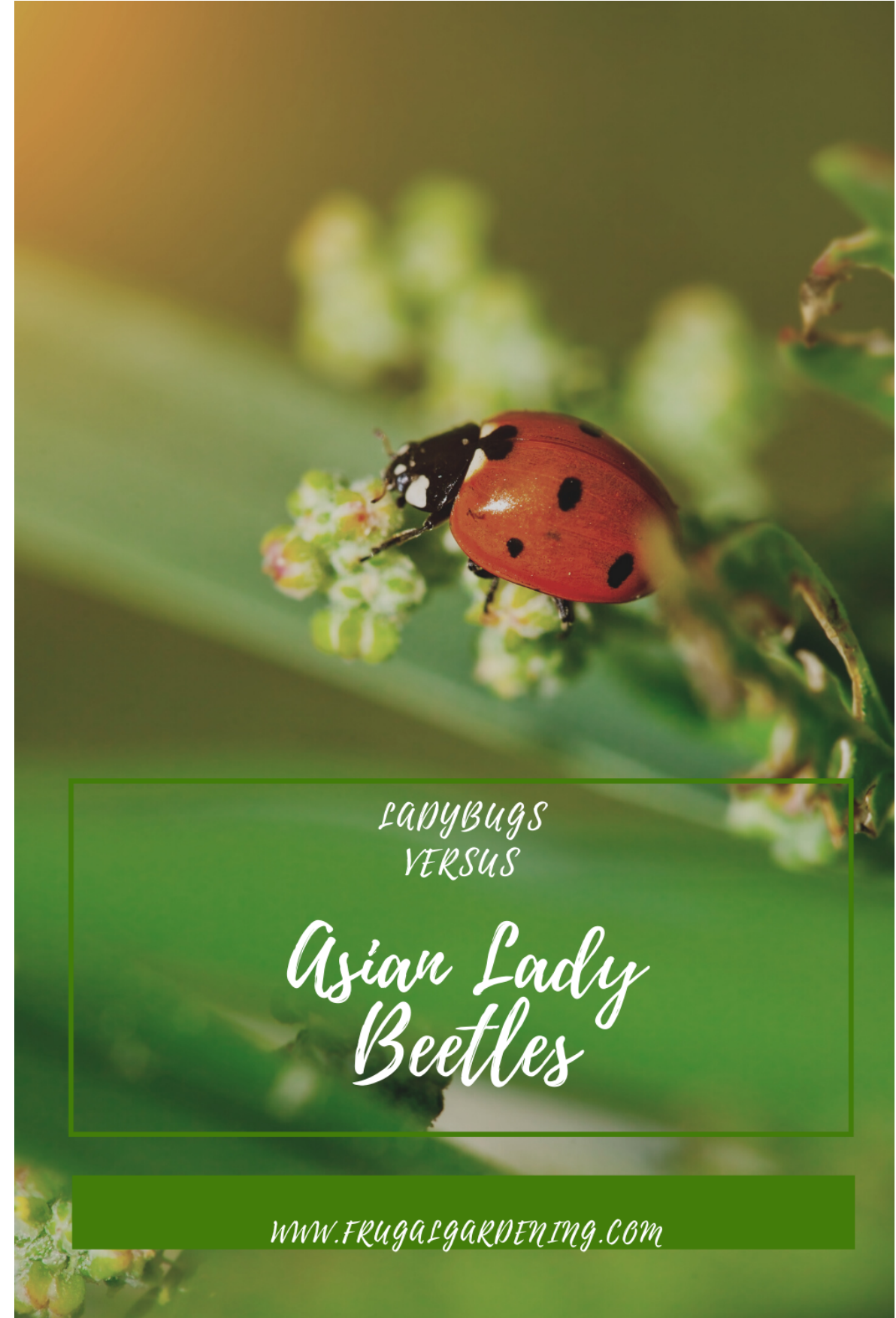
Read More:

[Could I Make Money With Worm Farming? – Frugal Gardening](#)

[Ladybugs Versus Asian Lady Beetles – Frugal Gardening](#)

[7 Garden Inspection Tasks for Thriving Plants – Frugal Gardening](#)

Ladybugs Versus Asian Lady Beetles



LADYBUGS
VERSUS

Asian Lady Beetles

WWW.FRUGALGARDENING.COM

Gardeners—especially those new to the hobby—may find it tough to distinguish between bad bugs and [beneficial insects](#). It can take some time to get a hang of which bugs to leave alone and

which to squish dead. Unfortunately, some good garden bugs have evil lookalikes. Case in point: ladybugs versus Asian lady beetles.

How can you tell the two apart? And which one do you want to keep around while you kick the other to the curb?

Ladybugs versus Asian Lady Beetles

Many gardeners are happy to find ladybugs hanging around their plots. While they don't pollinate plants like bees and butterflies, they hungrily snatch up a variety of garden pests, including [aphids](#).

The Asian lady beetle, on the other hand, is considered a pest. They leave behind a smelly yellow residue and because they aren't native to North America, they've quickly overtaken resources destined for native ladybugs. They also bite and tend to gather in large groups—yuck!

While lady beetles look quite similar to ladybugs, they aren't even the same species! Confused yet? Not to worry, here's a breakdown of the differences between the two:

Ladybugs

- do not bite
- are beneficial garden insects
- eat pests like mites, aphids, and whiteflies
- are bright red and have black spots
- are very round (or oval-shaped)
- have nearly all-black heads with two distinct white markings
- overwinter outdoors

Ladybeetles

- are biters
- eat some garden pests

- gather in groups and often turn into household pests during the colder months
- leave behind yellow goop with a nasty smell, it's not dangerous but it can stain surfaces
- are bigger than ladybugs
- have a coloring that varies from red to orange
- have a pointier shape
- always have a white M or W-shaped marking on their head

What do you do if you have lady beetles around or inside your home? Vacuum them up and immediately dispose of them. You can also buy store-bought traps to catch them. [Orkin](#) pest control recommends making sure all cracks and gaps in your home's exterior are filled. Additionally, if you're struggling to control the issue, don't wait before calling in the help of experts.

Another Nasty Beetle

Another Asian beetle that wreaks havoc on gardens is the Japanese beetle. It's actually more destructive than the Asian lady beetle, but a lot easier to tell apart. Instead of red-coloring, Japanese beetles have iridescent reddish-green carapaces that shimmer in the sunlight.

They would be lovely to look at if they didn't eat everything in their path! Thankfully, they tend to attack gardens in cycles. One year, you might have a swarm of Japanese beetles descending on your beans and flowers, and the next they might be gone altogether.

Need some help with identification? Check out this helpful YouTube video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9SyPD_qn_ZU