

15. Insect Habitat

Insect habitat is *Fundamental #9*. Insects populate and bring stability to your system if you allow the predators and beneficial species a place to live. Plant insect habitat for beneficial species and bait crops for the bad guys.

Many pest problems can be minimized with habitat that promotes predator insects. These environs include hedges and flower gardens because the spiders and pollinators thrive in them. An herb garden is great at attracting helpful insects and repelling some pests. Even strips of specialty plants can be harvested to spread the beneficial insects that take residence in them. Water areas, fountains and streams also bring in insects, toads and frogs, along with birds. A small pond

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with non-stagnant water will bring in more helpers for your garden. Birds are very helpful in the ecology of your farm. Many bird species eat large quantities of insects every day.



Archie points out a reptile hiding in the Aloe Vera planter. Reptiles can eat a large amount of pests each day or night, depending on sleep patterns.



You can distract certain pests with crops they prefer while growing ones they would not otherwise overlook. Their regular choice will survive with less infestation. We call this bait cropping. It helps in the nursery and green house.



The green house and potting shed are surrounded by natural habitat that promotes predator insects. Butterflies are safe in the natural farm. There are no insecticides or pesticides applied in a genuine natural farm. Never, ever! That allows the insect population to find a niche and maintain a balance.



Cucumbers are hit hard in the tropics by beetles. If you use the right companion plants and allow for predator habitat, you can get some wonderful fruits, free of insecticides. Some crops are best left to the seasons they thrive in.

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Pollinators can be encouraged to visit your farm if you don't spray chemicals. You can plant flowers, clovers and fruit trees your localized bees prefer. Colors are a welcome sight in the farm.





Poor soils force the beetle larvae to feed on roots. In healthy soil they eat organic matter and crop damage is minimal.



It is good to attract bees; they will insure better all - around pollination.



An integrated livestock unit provides the small farmer with an excellent source of income while building up his fertilizer reserves.