

## HOW MANY OF THESE COOL CREATURES CAN YOU FIND IN YOUR YARD?

When you find one, put an **X** on the line. Do you have more beneficial guests or unwanted pests? Why is that?

### BENEFICIAL GUESTS



\_\_\_\_\_ *Spiders* make webs. Let them stay! They trap and eat flying bugs like flea beetles and other pests that may want to eat your vegetables.



\_\_\_\_\_ *Birds* like robins eat a variety of destructive insects and small critters including one of the worst garden pests, slugs!



\_\_\_\_\_ *Ladybugs* have a huge appetite for aphids, mealybugs and other pesky insects that are commonly found dining on leafy vegetables.



\_\_\_\_\_ *Bees* like honeybees are great pollinators, but other bees, like carpenter bees are quite common, harmless and do a great job pollinating as well.



\_\_\_\_\_ *Praying mantis'* will dine on all sorts of harmful garden pests and will even snack on small rodents!



\_\_\_\_\_ *Parasitic wasps* lay their eggs in a host critter's body. When the eggs hatch, they eat the host from the inside out, ridding you of unwanted pests.



\_\_\_\_\_ *Ground beetles* are great for keeping insects of any stage; pupa, larva or nymph, in check above as well as under the ground.



\_\_\_\_\_ *Bats* love to eat insects! Brown bats eat mosquitoes, moths and more, helping to control the destructive cabbage moth caterpillar population.



\_\_\_\_\_ *Dragonflies* are found near water and are excellent hunters, devouring plenty of garden pests and, as a bonus, mosquitoes too!



\_\_\_\_\_ *Butterflies* are great pollinators and provide added color and beauty to the garden.

### UNWANTED PESTS



\_\_\_\_\_ *Slugs* may move slow and eat at night so check your plants each evening. Remove them yourself and leave them in a safe spot for the birds.



\_\_\_\_\_ *Squash vine borer* insects aren't the problem, it's their worm-like larvae that eat squash, cucumber and plants in the pumpkin family.



\_\_\_\_\_ *Groundhogs* will eat everything in your garden if given the chance! They dig holes, chew through plastic and often invite family members for dinner.



\_\_\_\_\_ *Stink bugs* get their name from the odor they release defending themselves. They feed on the juices from plants by sucking on the leaves.



\_\_\_\_\_ *Tomato hornworm* caterpillar is the juvenile form of the hawk moth. As the name implies, they feed on tomatoes and other plants in the garden.



\_\_\_\_\_ *Mexican bean beetles* are native to central Mexico, and will eat all the leaves on your bean plants if left alone!



\_\_\_\_\_ *Colorado potato beetle* larvae and adults eat the leaves of potato, eggplant and tomato plants, hurting or even killing the crops.



\_\_\_\_\_ *Flea beetles* are common in the spring and fall, chomping the leaves of plants in the cabbage family. Planting mint or thyme may keep them away.



\_\_\_\_\_ *Whiteflies* can be found in large numbers on the leaves of plants in the cabbage family sucking the juices from the leaves.



\_\_\_\_\_ *Cucumber beetles* can wreak havoc on plants in the pumpkin family! They suck on plant leaves, feeding on the juices found inside.