



Perimeter Garden Planting Guide

Sustainability Partnership with the University of St. Thomas Plant
Biology Class

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Introduction

This document was created as part of a Sustainability Partnership between the Biology of Plants as Food & Medicine at the University of St. Thomas and The Freshwater Society's Master Water Stewards program. The goal is to help community volunteers create perimeter gardens for urban agricultural sites to help attract pollinators, reduce runoff, and to help the local environment. Most of the plants included in this document are native to North America, particularly in Minnesota. If they are not native to North America, then it will be noted by an *.

Why Worry About Nutrient Capture?

When compost, manure, and fertilizer break down, nutrients like nitrogen, phosphorus, and suspended solids flow into the watershed. The excess nutrients then feed algal blooms in rivers, resulting in the death of fish and other wildlife; this is called a dead zone. In order to prevent the creation of dead zones, it is important to plant species that excel at nutrient capture. Plant qualities important to nutrient capture include: deep and thick root systems, perennial plants, and high nitrogen uptake. Listed in this catalog with pictures are three native plants that are most effective at nutrient capture (as well as some attractive native plants with deep root systems). Other options are listed within the chart. These plants are all perennials and will likely be some of the larger plants in the garden; a few scattered throughout will make for a great backdrop to pollinator and beneficial attractant plants. Due to the movement of water, the perimeter garden's ability to absorb excess nutrients greatly depends on the topography of the site. Gardens should be planted on slopes, in ditches, and downhill from the agricultural site. If the selected area is located on a hill, or other areas susceptible to erosion, there should be a higher ratio of nutrient plants : pollinator/beneficial plants.

Why Worry About Pollinators?

Without the help of pollinators, many plants would be unable to produce seeds and to reproduce. Pollinators distribute pollen from one flower to another. This involves picking up pollen from male parts (anthers) of flowers and transporting the pollen to female parts of flowers (stigmas). The pollen then germinates into a tube which carries the sperm to the egg in the ovary of the flower, allowing for fertilization and the formation of a new seed. Having pollinators in your garden will enhance the productivity of your garden, and allow wildlife to be drawn to your very own garden! The plants that attract pollinators that we have outlined in the section about pollinators are important in maintaining a healthy ecosystem by stabilizing soils, cleaning the air, and supporting other wildlife.

Why Worry About Beneficials? And What Are They?

Beneficial bugs are insects that contribute to pollination and pest control within a garden. In this section we focus on insects that function in pest control. There are a variety of insects that consume or kill other insects that can damage garden plants. Providing plants that attract these beneficial insects will help to prevent caterpillars and other unwanted pests from ruining and diminishing the garden you worked so hard to plant and grow.

Plants for Nutrient Uptake

Switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*)



[Photo Source](#)

- Perennial
- Height: 3-6 ft.
- Full sun to part shade
- Root depth: up to 11 ft.
- Highly recommended; one of most effective root systems

Prairie Cordgrass (*Spartina pectinata*)



[Photo Source](#)

- Perennial
- Height: 3-8 ft.
- Full sun to part shade
- Root depth: up to 9 ft.
- Highly recommended; one of most effective root systems

Cylindric Blazing Star (*Liatris cylindracea*)



[Photo Source](#)

- Perennial
- Height: 9-24 in.
- Full sun
- Root depth: can grow over 15 ft.
- Highly recommended; one of most effective root systems
- Blooms July-September
- Also attracts pollinators

White Wild Indigo (*Baptisia lactea*)



[Photo Source](#)

- Perennial
- Height: 2-4 ft.
- Full to partial sun
- Root depth: up to 8.5 ft.
- Blooms May-July
- Also attracts pollinators

Prairie Dropseed (*Sporobolus heterolepis*)



Photo Source

- Perennial
- Height: 2-4 ft.
- Full sun
- Root depth: up to 5 ft.
- Blooms: August-September

Rhododendron (*Rhododendron mucronulatum*)



Photo Source

- Perennial
- Height: ~4 ft. (varies greatly by species)
- Partial sun
- Root Depth: 12 in.
- Blooms
- Recommended for nitrogen capture

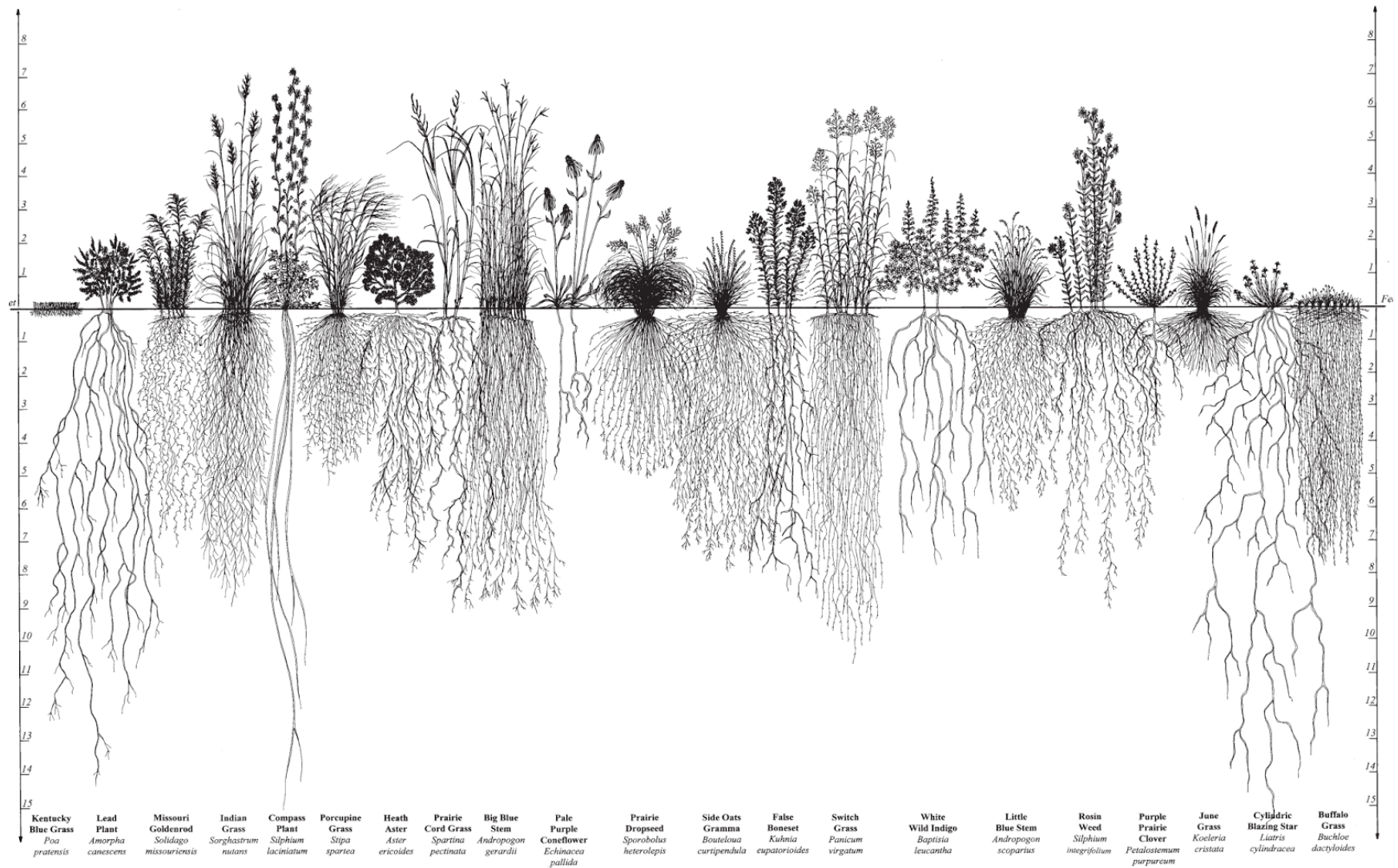
Apple Tree (*Malus pumila*)



Photo Source

- Height: 20-30 ft.
- Full Sun
- Deep taproot with fibrous offshoots
- Blooms April-May
- Recommended for nitrogen capture

Below is a diagram for reference that shows native grasses and plants with their average root depth



"Root Systems of Prairie Plants" by Heidi Natura ©1995, Conservation Research Institute

Plant Name (common)	Latin name	Type	Sun exposure	Blooming season	Pollinators	Color	Height
»Apple tree	<i>Malus pumila</i>	Fruit tree	Full	May	Self- unfruitful: fertilized by pollen of a separate variety	Green, red	10- 20 Feet
»Rhododendron	<i>Rhododendron mucronulatum</i>	Woody	Sun or shade	March- July	Bees	Pink, purple, white	Shrubs (3 feet)
»Switchgrass	<i>Panicum virgatum</i>	Grass	Full sun or partial shade	August- October	Cross- pollinated: wind	Green, tan	5-6 feet
»Prairie cordgrass	<i>Spartina pectinata</i>	Grass	Full sun	June	Cross- pollinated: wind	Yellow	3- 6 feet
»Cylindric blazing star	<i>Liatris cylindracea</i>	Perennial	Full sun	July- September	Bees, butterflies, skippers, and bee flies	Purple	1-2 feet
Lead plant	<i>Amorpha canescens</i>	Perennial	Partial- full sun	June- September	Bees	Yellow, purple	1- 3 feet
Missouri goldenrod	<i>Solidago missouriensis</i>	Perennial	Partial- full sun	June- September	Small bees, wasps, flies, and beetles	Yellow, green	1 1/2 - 3 feet
Indian grass	<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>	Perennial	Sun, part shade, shade	August- October	Cross- pollinated: wind	Light brown, gold, and purple	3-8 feet
Compass plant	<i>Silphium laciniatum</i>	Perennial	Full sun	July	Long- tongued bees (bumblebees, Miner bees, large Leaf- Cutting bees)	Yellow, green	6-12 feet
Porcupine grass	<i>Hesperostipa spartea</i>	Perennial	Full sun	Spring	Cross- pollinated: wind	Green, white	2-4 feet
Heath aster	<i>Symphyotrichum ericoides</i>	Perennial	Partial sun	August- October	Cross-pollinated: wind	White, yellow, green	1-3 feet
Big bluestem	<i>Andropogon gerardii</i>	Grass	Full sun	August- November	Cross- pollinated: wind	Maroonish- tan	4-8 feet
Pale purple coneflower	<i>Echinacea pallida</i>	Perennial	Full sun- part shade	June- July	Butterflies	Purple	2-3 feet
»Prairie dropseed	<i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i>	Grass	Full sun	August- October	Birds	Pink, brown	2-3 feet
Side oats gramma	<i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i>	Grass	Sun- part shade	June- November	Bees	Blue, green, red, orange, yellow	1-3 feet
False boneset	<i>Brickellia eupatorioides</i>	Perennial	Full sun	Spring	Bumblebees, leaf-cutting bees	Green, brown	1- 3 1/2 feet
»White wild indigo	<i>Baptisia alba</i>	Wildflower	Full sun- part shade	June- July	Cross- pollinated: wind	Charcoal gray, blue, green, white	4 feet

» indicates plant is listed in pictures above

Plants to Attract Pollinators

Plants that Attract Butterflies

Swamp Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*)



[Photo Source](#)

- Perennial
- Height: 4-5 ft.
- Blooms June through October
- Partial shade-Full sun

Common Milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*)



[Photo Source](#)

- Perennial
- Height: 2-3 ft.
- Bloom June through August
- Full sun

Butterfly Weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)



[Photo Source](#)

- Perennial
- Height: 1-2.5 ft.
- Blooms May through September
- Full sun

Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*)



[Photo Source](#)

- Perennial
- Height: 2-5 ft.
- Blooms April through September
- Full sun

Rough Blazing Star (*Liatris aspera*)



[Photo Source](#)

- Perennial
- Blooms August through September
- Height: 2-3 ft.
- Full sun

Meadow Blazing Star (*Liatris ligulistylis*)



[Photo Source](#)

- Perennial
- Blooms August through September
- Height: 1-3 ft.
- Full sun

Black-Eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*)



[Photo Source](#)

- Annual
- Blooms Jun-Oct
- Height: 2-3 ft.
- Full sun

Evening Primrose (*Oenothera biennis*)



[Photo Source](#)

- Biennial
- Height: 3-5 ft.
- Blooms July through September
- Partial shade-full sun

Scarlet Gaura (*Oenothera suffrutescens*)



[Photo Source](#)

- Perennial
- Height: 1-2 ft.
- Blooms May through August
- Partial shade-full sun

Plants that Attract Bees

Wild Germanium (*Geranium maculatum*)



[Photo source](#)

- Perennial
- Height: 1.5-2 ft.
- Full shade to full sun
- Blooms March to May
- Attracts bees, butterflies
- tolerates deer, rabbits, and dry soil

Virginia Waterleaf (*Hydrophyllum virginianum*)



[Photo Source](#)

- Perennial
- Height: 1-2 ft.
- Full shade to full sun
- Blooms from March to July
- Attracts bees and honey bees and tolerates wet soils

Goatsbeard (*Aruncus dioecus*)



[Photo Source](#)

- Perennial
- Height: 4-6 ft.
- Full shade to full sun
- Blooms from June to July
- Attracts bees and honey bees and tolerates wet soils and rabbits

Swamp Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*)



[Photo Source](#)

- Perennial
- Height: 4-5 ft.
- Partial shade to full sun
- Blooms from July to August
- Attracts bees, honey bees, and butterflies and tolerates deer, clay soil, and wet soil

Goldenrod (*Solidago rigida*)



[Photo Source](#)

- Perennial
- Height: 3-5 ft.
- Partial shade to full sun
- Blooms from August to September
- Attracts bees, honey bees, and butterflies and tolerates deer and clay soil

Plants that Attract Flies & Beetles

Marigolds (*Calendula officinalis*)



[Photo Source](#)

- Height: 1-2 ft.
- Partial Shade-Full Sun
- Marigolds are a beautiful addition to a garden, blooming all year and bloom best in poor soil.

Goldenrod (*Solidago rigida*)



[Photo Source](#)

- Height: 3-5 ft.
- Partial Shade to full Sun
- Tolerates deer predation and clay-based soil. Beyond flies and beetles, it also attracts bees, honey bees, butterflies, and soldier beetles. They also can be ground and used to reduce pain and inflammation, and as a diuretic.

Zinnia (*Chrysogonum elegans*)



[Photo Source](#)

- Height: 4-6 in.
- Full Sun
- Attracts butterflies, soldier beetles, and hummingbirds. It can grow under moderate soil moisture and light fertilization. Grower's tip is to deadhead zinnia flowers to prolong flowering.

Coneflower (*Echinacea paradoxa*)



[Photo Source](#)

- Height: 2-3 ft.
- Full Sun
- Attracts soldier beetles and coneflowers are a hearty plant that can tolerate deer, droughts, clay soil, dry soil, and shallow-rocky soil.

Globe Thistle (*Echinops bannaticus*)*



[Photo Source](#)

- Height: 2-4 ft.
- Full Sun
- Attracts soldier beetles. Native to Eastern Europe and Central Asia

Plants that Attract Hummingbirds

Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*)



[Photo Source](#)

- Native to Minnesota
- Blooms July - September
- Perennial
- Full shade to full sun
- Attracts hummingbirds
- Grows up to 4' tall

Lungwort (*Pulmonaria officinalis*)



[Photo Source](#)

- Native to Minnesota
- Blooms April-May
- Perennial
- Full shade to full sun
- Attracts hummingbirds
- Grows up to 1' tall

Honeysuckle (*Lonicera*)



[Photo Source](#)

- Native to Minnesota
- Blooms June-Oct.
- Perennial
- Full shade to full sun
- Attracts Hummingbirds
- Vines can grow from 20 to 30 feet across the ground

Wild Columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*)



[Photo Source](#)

- Native to Minnesota
- Blooms May-June
- Perennial
- Full shade to full sun
- Attracts hummingbird
- Grows up to 3' tall

Foxglove (Digitalis)



[Photo Source](#)

- Native to Minnesota
- Blooms June-July
- Perennial
- Full shade to full sun
- Attracts hummingbirds
- Can grow up to 6' tall

Latin Name	Common Name	Native to MN	Type	Sun	Blooming Season	Pollinators	Notes	Height
<i>Geranium maculatum</i>	Wild Geranium	yes	perennial	full shade-full sun	March-May	bees and butterflies	Tolerates deer, rabbits, and dry soil	1.5-2 ft
<i>Hydrophyllum virginianum</i>	Virginia Waterleaf	yes	perennial	full shade-full sun	March-July	bees and honey bees	Tolerates wet soils	1-2 ft
<i>Aruncus dioecus</i>	Goatsbeard	yes	perennial	full shade-full sun	June-July	bees and honey bees	Tolerates wet soils and rabbits	4-6 ft
<i>--Asclepias incarnata</i>	Swamp milkweed	yes	perennial	partial shade-full sun	July-August	bees, honey bees, and butterflies	Tolerates deer, clay soil, and wet soils	4-5 ft
<i>Solidago rigida</i>	Goldenrod	yes	perennial	partial shade-full sun	August-Sept.	bees, honey bees, butterflies, and soldier beetles	Tolerates deer and clay soil	3-5 ft
<i>Calendula officinalis</i>	Marigold	yes	annual	partial shade-full sun	May-June	Butterflies and soldier beetles	Tolerates rabbits	1-2 ft

<i>Chrysogonum elegans</i>	Zinnia	no	annual	full sun	June-Frost	Butterflies, soldier beetles, hummingbirds		4-6 in
<i>Echinacea paradoxa</i>	Yellow coneflower	no	perennial	full sun	June-August	soldier beetles	Tolerates deer, drought, clay soil, dry soil, and shallow-rocky soil	2-3 ft
<i>Echinops bannaticus</i>	Globe thistle	no	perennial	full sun	July-August	soldier beetles	Tolerates dry soil and shallow-rocky soil	2-4 ft
<i>Asclepias syriaca</i>	Common milkweed	yes	perennial	full sun	June-August	Butterflies	Tolerates Deer, Drought, Erosion, Dry Soil, Shallow-Rocky Soil	2-3 ft
<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	Butterfly weed	yes	perennial	full sun	May-Sept.	Butterflies	Tolerates Deer, Drought, Erosion, Dry Soil, Shallow-Rocky Soil	1-2.5 ft

<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	purple coneflower	yes	perennial	partial shade-full sun	April-Sept.	Butterflies	Tolerates Deer, Drought, Erosion, Dry Soil, Shallow-Rocky Soil	2-5 ft
<i>Liatris aspera</i>	rough blazing star	yes	perennial	full sun	August-Oct.	Butterflies, bees, honey bees and hummingbirds	Tolerates Drought, Dry Soil, Shallow-Rocky Soil	2-3 ft
<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	black-eyed susan	yes	perennial	full sun	June-Sept.	Butterflies	Tolerates deer, drought, and clay soil	2-3 ft
<i>Oenothera biennis</i>	evening primrose	yes	perennial	partial shade-full sun	June-Sept.	Butterflies and moths	Tolerates drought	3-5 ft
<i>Oenothera suffrutescens</i>	scarlet gaura	yes	perennial	full sun	May-August	Moths		1-2 ft
<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	Cardinal Flower	yes	perennial	partial shade-full sun	June-Sept.	Butterflies and hummingbirds	Tolerates rabbit, deer, and wet soils	2-4 ft
<i>Lonicera sempervirens</i>	Honeysuckle	yes	perennial	full sun	June-October	Butterflies and hummingbirds	Tolerates deer and clay soil	8-15 ft

Vegetable/Herb	Pollinators
Basil	Bees
Bell Peppers	Bees, Honeybee, Bumble bees
Broccoli	Bees, Honeybee, Bumble bees
Cauliflower	Bees, Honeybee, Bumble bees
Collards	Bees, Honeybee, Bumble bees
Cucumbers	Bees
Eggplant	Bees
Mint	Flies, Bees, Butterflies
Oregano	Butterfly
Parsley	Butterflies
Pumpkin	Honeybees
Rosemary	Bees, Hummingbirds
Sage	Hummingbirds, butterfly, Bees
Squash	Honeybees
Thyme	Butterflies, Bees
Tomatoes	Bees
Watermelon	Bees
Zucchini	Bees, Butterflies

Plants that Attract Beneficials

Beneficials:



Ambush wasp



Cicada killer wasp



Yellowjacket



Bald-faced hornet

Predatory Wasps:

[Photo Source](#)

Predatory wasps can be classified as either social or solitary wasps. Solitary wasps are known mostly for their painful stings, only when you disturb their nest. However, many do not know about their beneficial aspects towards controlling pest found in your garden. Predatory wasps are known to be pest controls because they help fight against unwanted insects that feed off of your crops. Although both social and solitary wasps help capture insects, solidarity do not sting and their main job is to only capture prey.

Pest they feed on: Predatory wasps feed on a large variety of insects including beetles, beetle larvae, flies, true bugs, other wasps, and a variety of other larger insects.

Flowers that attract Predatory wasps: *Achillea filipendulina* — Fern-leaf yarrow, *Achillea millefolium* — Common yarrow, *Allium tanguticum* — Lavender globe lily, *Anethum graveolens* — Dill, *Anthemis tinctoria* — Golden marguerite, *Callirhoe, involucrata* — Purple poppy mallow, *Limonium latifolium* — Statice, *Melissa officinalis* — Lemon balm, *Petroselinum crispum* — Parsley, *Tagetes tenuifolia* — Marigold – lemon gem, *Tanacetum vulgare* — Tansy

Ladybugs:



Three-banded ladybug (native to MN)

[Photo source](#)



Two-spotted ladybug (native to MN)

[Photo source](#)

Ladybird beetles, commonly known as ladybugs eat all sorts of garden pests, in particular aphids and small caterpillars. Additionally, adult ladybugs eat flower nectar and pollen. Since lady bugs emerge earlier in the season than lacewings, early-blooming flowers are needed to help attract adults who are searching for food. Similar to lacewings, growing a diversity of plants is recommended.

Pest they feed on: All sorts of garden pests including aphids and small caterpillars.

Flowers that attract Ladybugs: Carrot family (caraway, tansy, dill, angelica), sunflower family (cosmos, sunflowers, dandelion, goldenrod).

Soldier Beetles:



[Photo Source](#)

Soldier beetles, within the family Cantharidae, are commonly found throughout North America. They are identified by an elongated body, bright colored body with brown or black wings, and a length of about ½ inch. Their diet consists of insects, nectar and, pollen. Adult soldier beetles are most commonly found on goldenrod.

Pest they feed on: Caterpillars, aphids, other soft-bodied insects

Flowers that attract Soldier beetles: Goldenrod, milkweed, single-flowered marigolds, members of the daisy family

Mealybug Destroyers:



[Photo Source](#)

Mealybug destroyers, *Cryptolaemus montrouzieri*, were originally brought from Australia to control the citrus mealybug. They can be identified by their brown color, which is uncommon for insects within the same family. They are most active in 70 degree weather and should be released in the beginning of summer for optimal pest control.

Pest they feed on: Mealybug, aphids, other soft-bodied insects

Flowers that attract Mealybug: Fennel, dill, angelica, sunflower, goldenrod

Hoverflies:



[Photo Source](#)

Hoverflies are common in the United States and make up the Syrphidae family of insects. They are commonly seen to be hovering around plants and collecting nectar from them. They look very similar to a wasp or bee and are harmless to other animals, except for the ones they prey upon.

Pests they feed on: Aphids, thrips, caterpillars, and other plant sucking insects

Flowers that attract Hoverflies: Fern-leaf yarrow, common yarrow, Carpet bugleweed, dill, Basket of Gold, Lavender globe lily, statice, lemon balm, parsley, Purple poppy mallow

Parasitic Wasp



[Photo Source](#)

Parasitic Wasps refers to a series of families within the Apocrita subgroup. They are smaller wasps that lay their eggs on or within the eggs of common garden pests. Parasitic wasps are also commonly seen in the United States, and vary in looks and size.

Pests they feed on: It should be noted that parasitic wasps do not feed on pests but rather inhibit their reproduction through using them as hosts for their own reproduction. With this in mind, parasitic wasps help get rid of caterpillars, coleoptera, diptera, hemiptera and other hymenoptera.

Flowers that attract Parasitic Wasps: Fern-leaf yarrow, common yarrow, lavender globe lily, dill, golden marguerite, purple poppy mallow, statice, lemon balm, parsley, marigold, lemon gem, tansy

Plants that attract Beneficials:

Fern leaf yarrow (*Achillea filipendulina*)



[Photo source](#)

- Height: 35-59 inches
- Shade: Full sun
- Attracts Beetles, ladybugs, predatory wasps, hoverflies, and parasitic wasps. It is a non-invasive plant. It can grow on normal, clay or sandy soil. The soil may be moist be dry soil is also tolerated. Additionally, it is very heat tolerant.

Golden marguerite (*Anthemis tinctoria*)



[Photo Source](#)

- Height: 12-36 in
- Shade: Full Sun
- Attracts: lacewings, ladybugs, hoverflies, predatory wasps, parasitic wasps, and tachinid flies. It can grow on dry to moist soil. Does not do well on clay soil.

Angelica (*Angelica archangelica*)



[Photo source](#)

- Height: 3-6 feet
- Shade: Full sun to part shade
- Attracts: Ladybugs and lacewings

Cosmos (*Cosmos bipinnatus*)



[Photo source](#)

- Height: 1-4 feet
- Shade: Full Sun
- Attracts: Ladybugs and lacewings

Goldenrod (*Asteraceae solidago*)



[Photo Source](#)

- Height: Up to 4 feet
- Shade: Full sun
- Attracts: Soldier beetles, lacewings, ladybugs

*This plant can also be used to attract pollinators, see pg 17.

*Additionally, this plant is also useful for nutrient capture.

Dill (*Anethum graveolens*)



[Photo Source](#)

- Height: 3-5 feet
- Shade: Full sun
- Attracts: Predatory wasps, ladybugs, lacewings, mealybug destroyers

Purple poppy mallow (*Callirhoe involucrata*)



[Photo Source](#)

- Height: up to 1 foot
- Shade: Full sun to part shade
- Attracts: Predatory wasps, bees, butterflies, hoverflies

Summary Table

Beneficial Insect	Pests they Consume	Plant Attractants
Predatory wasps	Beetles, beetle larvae, flies, true bugs, other wasps, other larger insects	Fern-leaf yarrow, common yarrow, lavender globe lily, dill, golden marguerite, purple poppy mallow, statice, lemon balm, parsley, marigold, lemon gem, tansy
Ladybugs	Aphids and small caterpillars	Carrot family (caraway, tansy, dill, angelica) and sunflower family (cosmos, sunflower, dandelion, goldenrod)
Lacewings	Aphids	Carrot family (caraway, tansy, dill angelica) and sunflower family (cosmos, sunflower, dandelion, goldenrod)
Soldier beetles	Caterpillars, aphids, other soft-bodied insects	Goldenrod, milkweed, single-flowered marigolds, members of the daisy family
Mealybug Destroyers	Mealybug, aphids, other soft-bodied insects	Fennel, dill angelica, sunflower, goldenrod

Hoverfly	Aphids, thrips, caterpillars, and other plant sucking insects	Fern-leaf yarrow, common yarrow, Carpet bugleweed, dill, Basket of Gold, Lavender globe lily, statice, lemon balm, parsley, Purple poppy mallow
Parasitic Wasp	Caterpillars, coleoptera, diptera, hemiptera and other hymenoptera.	Fern-leaf yarrow, common yarrow, lavender globe lily, dill, golden marguerite, purple poppy mallow, statice, lemon balm, parsley, marigold, lemon gem, tansy

Conclusion

Every garden requires a different group of plants and a different design to act as a balance to each unique system. In planning a perimeter garden, one must consider topography, what is being grown, and the ecosystem around the garden in order to reap maximum benefits. This guide is a reference for individuals looking to construct their own garden based on their own individual needs. If the garden has a slope in one direction, then it might be best to have plants designed for nutrient capture on the lower end of that slope. If one is hoping for a high yield for a vegetable garden, attracting beneficials and pollinators may be the best course of action.

When considering the local environment, one must not just consider the amount of sun or rainfall an area gets, but also the plants and animals that live in the area as well. Of course, examining when plants flower for visual appeal is one aspect, but also if one plant requires a lot of one nutrient or has very long roots then diversifying plants with that in mind can help create the healthiest perimeter garden.

This guide is laid out for you to consider your needs, whether that be a specific benefit of the plant, its visual appeal, or creating a low maintenance garden. Best of luck creating your own perimeter garden!

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