



Kathrine Dulin Folger Rose Garden

Creating Balance: Plant Pests and Beneficial Insects

“What I dream of is an art of balance.”

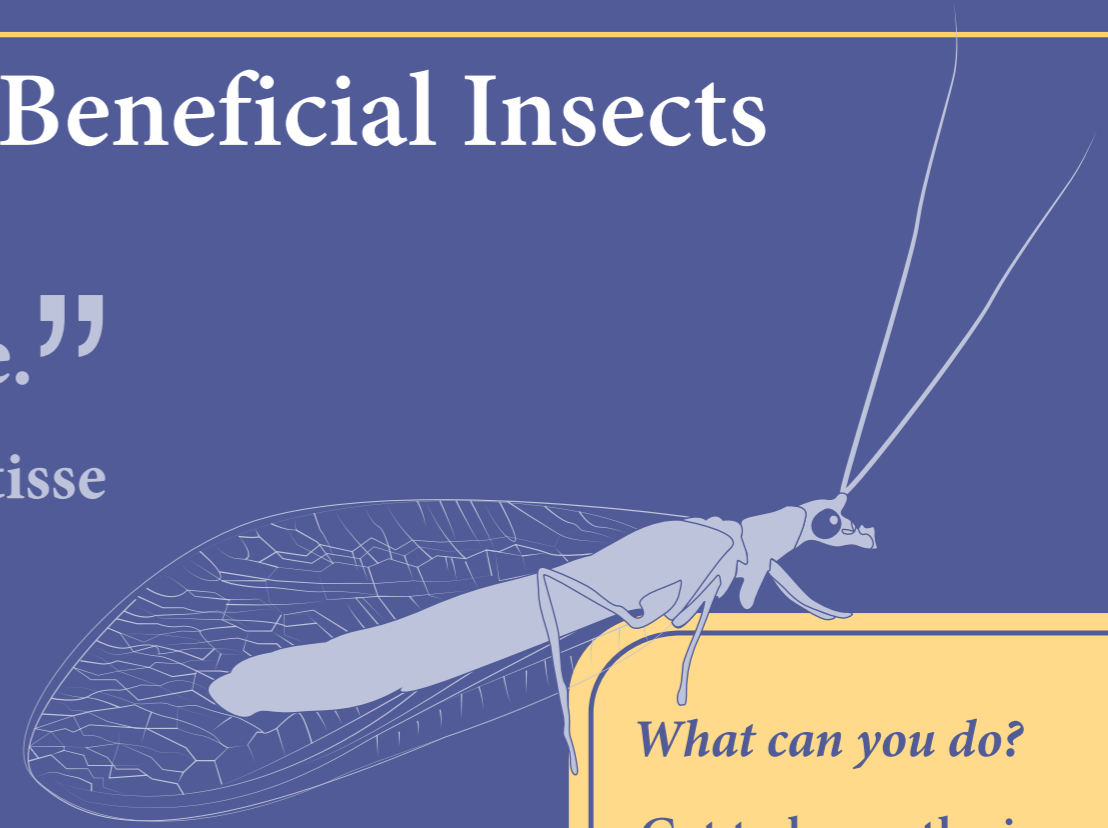
—Henri Matisse

Insects are often perceived as something to be avoided or even eliminated. On the contrary, most are beneficial to your garden!

Insects not only pollinate our food and flower crops, they also improve soil texture, break down decaying wood and plants, and serve as an important food source for birds and small mammals. Some insects help to manage pest populations while causing little or no damage to plants. These helpful bugs are called beneficial insects.

In addition to feeding on flower pollen and nectar as a part of their diet, some beneficial insects dine on insect pests. Common beneficial insects include ladybugs, green lacewings, syrphid flies (a.k.a hover flies), and non-stinging parasitic wasps.

An insect is considered a plant pest if it causes a significant decline in plant health or crop yield. Common pests in rose gardens include aphids, mites, and thrips.



What can you do?

Get to know the insects in your garden.

Identify and monitor the populations of pests and beneficial insects. A healthy garden should have both.

