“When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the universe.”

— John Muir

In a garden, as with any community, each member plays a role in its success or failure. The relationships between its residents—both plants and insects—are dependent on one another.

A garden planted with a broad palette of plants not only provides year-round beauty but also supports a diverse population of insects. The goal is to maintain a habitat that balances insects considered to be plant pests with their natural enemies, called beneficial insects. Creating and maintaining a balance between these two populations is essential to sustaining a healthy garden.

What can you do?
Create a garden using a variety of plants that attract all types of insects.
Avoid using insecticides as they kill beneficial insects as well as garden pests.

Smithsonian Gardens