# Attracting Beneficial Insects

This playbook outlines the steps necessary to attract and support beneficial insects in an organic garden. These insects act as natural pest control agents, helping to maintain a more sustainable and eco-friendly garden ecosystem.

### Step 1: Assess Garden

Conduct a thorough assessment of your garden to understand the current ecosystem, including any existing insect populations and plant types.

### Step 2: Choose Plants

Select a variety of plants that are known to attract beneficial insects. Include flowering plants that provide nectar and pollen to support various stages of insect life.

### Step 3: Planting

Strategically plant the selected flowers and shrubs in your garden. Group plants with similar sunlight and water requirements together to create an environment conducive to beneficial insect life.

### Step 4: Avoid Pesticides

Eliminate the use of chemical pesticides that can harm beneficial insects. Opt for natural pest control methods if required.

### Step 5: Provide Water

Set up water sources for insects by including features like a shallow bird bath or dishes with stones for insects to land on.

### Step 6: Create Habitats

Offer habitats for beneficial insects by allowing some areas of the garden to grow wild, installing insect hotels, or leaving dead wood and leaf piles for insects to nest and overwinter.

### Step 7: Maintenance

Regularly maintain the garden by weeding, watering, and monitoring plant health. Observe insect activity to ensure that beneficial populations are establishing themselves.

## General Notes

### Seasonality

Consider the seasonal patterns of insect life in your region when planting and providing upkeep to ensure year-round support for your garden's beneficial insects.

### Diverse Ecosystem

Encourage a diverse ecosystem by rotating crops and using companion planting to create a more resilient garden environment.