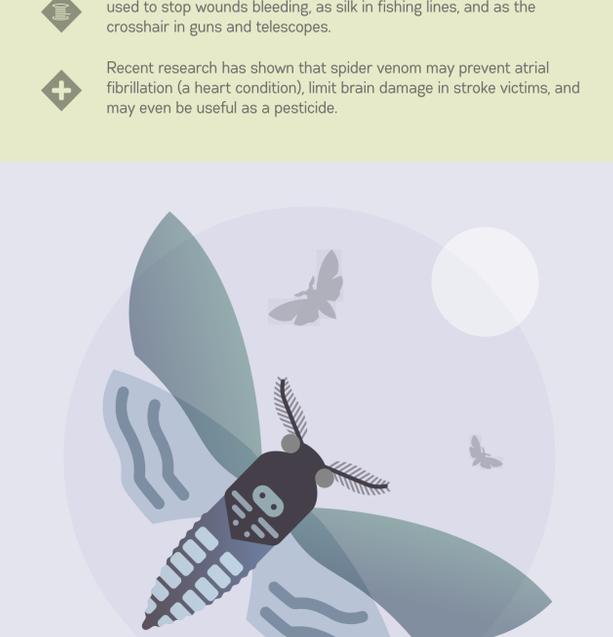


AN
**ILLUSTRATED GUIDE TO
BENEFICIAL BUGS**
IN YOUR GARDEN



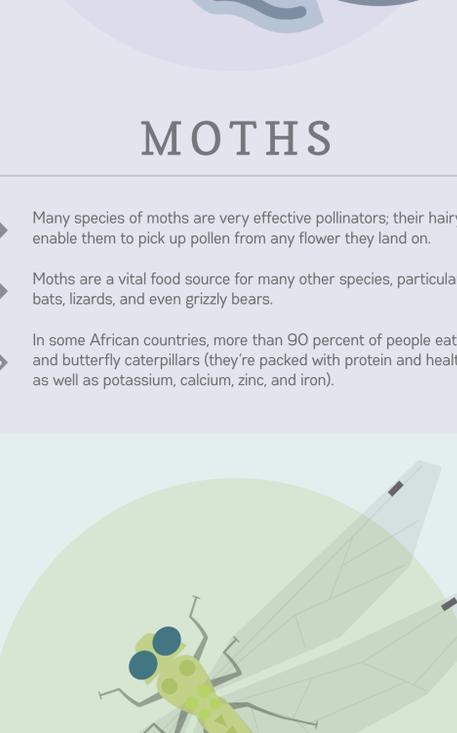
WASPS

- Wasps feast on small insects such as greenfly. Without them we would be overrun with creepy crawlies.
- Like bees, wasps help to pollinate plants and flowers, providing a vital contribution to our planet's ecosystem.
- Yellowjacket wasps help rid our world of dead insects by scavenging them to feed their offspring.



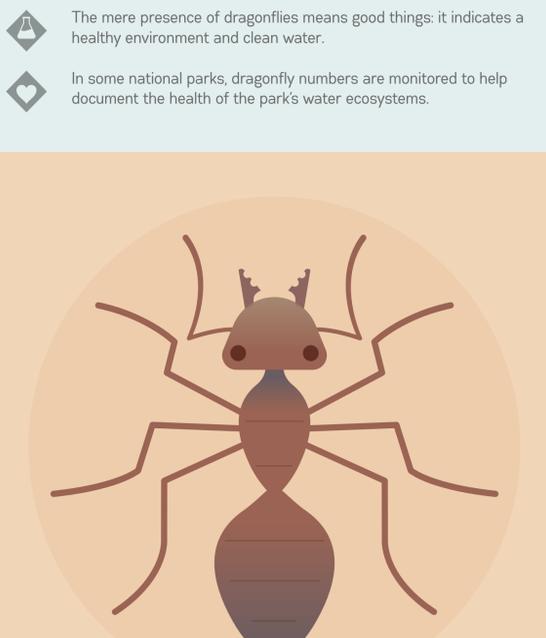
SPIDERS

- Spiders play a huge part in curbing populations of other pests, including the world's deadliest insect – the mosquito.
- Throughout history spider silk has proved incredibly useful: it's been used to stop wounds bleeding, as silk in fishing lines, and as the crosshair in guns and telescopes.
- Recent research has shown that spider venom may prevent atrial fibrillation (a heart condition), limit brain damage in stroke victims, and may even be useful as a pesticide.



MOTHS

- Many species of moths are very effective pollinators; their hairy bodies enable them to pick up pollen from any flower they land on.
- Moths are a vital food source for many other species, particularly owls, bats, lizards, and even grizzly bears.
- In some African countries, more than 90 percent of people eat moth and butterfly caterpillars (they're packed with protein and healthy fats, as well as potassium, calcium, zinc, and iron).



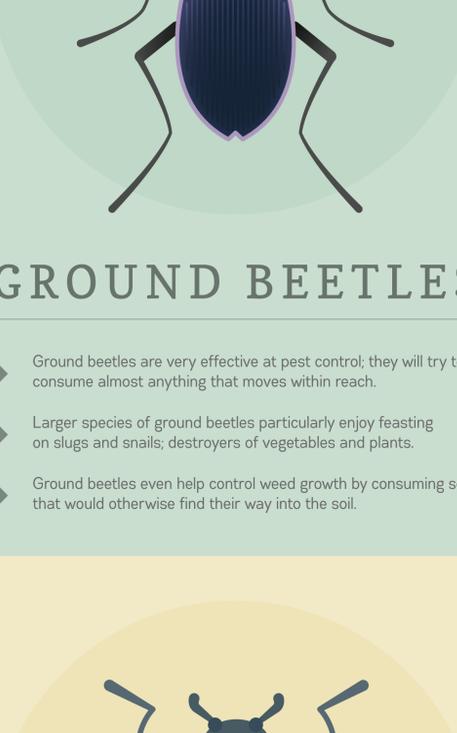
DRAGONFLIES

- Dragonflies feast on small, flying pests including mosquitoes and gnats. They're also very efficient at it, thanks to their ability to lock onto and track prey.
- The mere presence of dragonflies means good things: it indicates a healthy environment and clean water.
- In some national parks, dragonfly numbers are monitored to help document the health of the park's water ecosystems.



ANTS

- As ants dig tunnels underground, they move and separate the soil, aerating it and helping oxygen and nutrients to enter the ground.
- Ants help to quickly decompose waste products that could otherwise rot, and potentially become infected with diseases.
- Ants perform a vital task for some species of plants by transporting their seeds to new locations.



GROUND BEETLES

- Ground beetles are very effective at pest control; they will try to consume almost anything that moves within reach.
- Larger species of ground beetles particularly enjoy feasting on slugs and snails; destroyers of vegetables and plants.
- Ground beetles even help control weed growth by consuming seeds that would otherwise find their way into the soil.



LADYBIRDS

- Ladybirds are a gardener's best friend, with many species consuming up to 50 plant-destroying aphids a day, and as many as 5,000 during their lifetime.
- Some species of ladybird feast on mildew, a common scourge that affects many edible and decorative garden plants.
- In 1891 ladybirds were credited with saving the Californian citrus industry from a potentially devastating mealy bug plague.



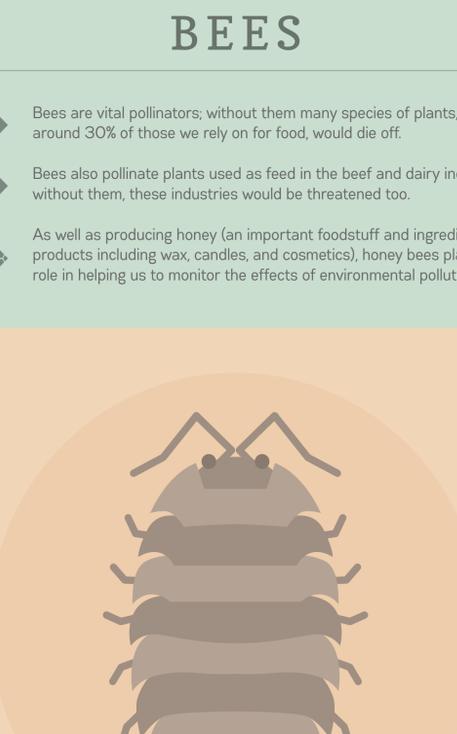
LACEWINGS

- Lacewings consume large numbers of small insects such as greenfly.
- As a result they are used commercially in some parts of the world in order to control pests on cotton crops.
- Even the larvae are effective pest controllers, consuming between 300 and 400 aphids before pupating into an adult.



BEEES

- Bees are vital pollinators; without them many species of plants, including around 30% of those we rely on for food, would die off.
- Bees also pollinate plants used as feed in the beef and dairy industries; without them, these industries would be threatened too.
- As well as producing honey (an important foodstuff and ingredient in products including wax, candles, and cosmetics), honey bees play a crucial role in helping us to monitor the effects of environmental pollution.



WOODLICE

- Woodlice rarely feed on live plants, in fact, they mainly feed on decaying plant material, playing a vital role in speeding up decomposition and recycling plant nutrients.
- Research identified woodlice to be beneficial in monitoring the ecosystem activity of grasslands.
- They're also a nutritious food source to many other animals, particularly the *Dysdera crocata*, a type of spider which feeds exclusively on woodlice.

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