



You'll Miss Them When They're Gone.

Insects provide eco-services we can't live without.

Eco-Services from Insects



Pollinators



Break down waste



Feed the birds and other animals



Aerate the soil



Release nutrients from decaying plants



Insects

'the little things who run the world'

E.O. Wilson



Nearly all are harmless and beneficial.

Bee
Smart

Don't
Spray



Natural insecticides, like pyrethrins from chrysanthemums,
are still deadly.

Cyanide is natural.

Dark Sky Initiative

- Animals and insects need dark nights
- Light disrupts their life patterns and mating
- Use motion detectors to limit outdoor light and still have security
- Switch bright bulbs out for yellow or red lights
- Close curtains at night to contain indoor lighting





WHAT GOOD ARE MOSQUITOES?

- Packed with protein as food source for birds, fish, other insects, bats, amphibians and reptiles
- Larva are voracious eaters of biological waste
- Engineers study mosquitoes to improve drone flight
- They serve as pollinators since only a fraction eat blood

Harmless Native Bees live here



70% of bees are ground nesters

**A Carolina
Chickadee needs
7,000 caterpillars
to raise a brood.**

Spraying kills caterpillars

Can you deal with a little
damage to save her
brood?





Leave the Leaves

Leaf litter grows
fireflies and other
beneficial insects as
well as butterfly larva.

Nature's Partners

Monarch
butterfly larva
must have
milkweed





Keystone native plants that produce the most caterpillars to feed our birds

National Wildlife Federation
www.nwf.org/NativePlantFinder

- Goldenrod serves 92 species
- Sunflower serves 62 species
- Oak serves 447 species
- Prunus (plum, cherry, chokecherry) serves 317 species
- Willow serves 236 species
- Carya (hickory, pecan) serves 227 species



A monster or a ladybug larva

Ladybug larva eat aphids and white flies that infest your plants. These helpers come to your garden when you leave the aphids alone.

Fireflies are beetles

Also known as lightning bugs, these creatures that light up the June sky at dusk

- - need wet leaves to live and hibernate
- - need dark nights to communicate
- - need untrampled spaces

