



\$0.30

Riverton Organic Growers Fact Sheet | [www.sces.org.nz](http://www.sces.org.nz)

## FLOWERS TO ATTRACT BENEFICIAL CREATURES

*Your garden is a living ecosystem. Working alongside the diversity of creatures in your garden can save you time and money, through pest control, pollination and soil creation!*

### Beneficial creatures in the garden include:

- Lacewings, ladybirds, hoverflies, ground beetles, dragonflies, spiders, ichneumon wasps: all useful **predators** on pest creatures like caterpillars, aphids, flies etc.
- Honey bees, bumblebees, solitary bees, drone flies, hoverflies, butterflies: all useful **pollinators** for a wide range of garden crops;
- Worms, slaters, springtails: all useful **soil makers**.

### Pest creatures in the garden include:

Aphids, mites, white fly, scale, green beetles, carrot fly, caterpillars, mealy bug, millipedes, thrips, slugs, snails. These creatures may always be present, but often we only notice them once they are 'out of control' and start affecting our crops. They tend to suck juices from plants, or simply chew on them.

### Best ways to attract predators and pollinators:

Planting a range of flowering plants will attract adults, which will then lay eggs nearby. Best flowers for predators include:

- **Plants from the 'Apiaceae' family (when flowering, they are like giant umbrellas made up of tiny flowers):**  
Carrot, Parsley, Queen Anne's lace, Fennel, Sweet cicely, Coriander, Lovage, Cow parsley, Alexanders;
- **Plants from the 'Asteraceae' family (typically daisy-like flowers that are also made up of lots of little flowers):**  
Cosmos, Marigold, Calendula, Dandelion, Burdock, Elecampagne, Sunflower, Chamomile, Artichokes (Jerusalem and Globe), Rudbeckia, Echinacea, Yarrow;
- **Plants from the 'Boraginaceae' family (mostly blue flowers, beloved by bees):**  
Borage, Comfrey, Echium, Phacelia;
- **Plants from the 'Brassicaceae' family:**  
Alyssum, Cress, Wallflower, Cabbage, Radish, Kale;
- **Plants from the 'Fabaceae' family (also called legumes):**  
Lupin, Clovers, Broad bean, Kowhai, Kakabeak
- **Some other superstar flowers (including trees and shrubs):**  
Buckwheat, Stinging nettle, Muehlenbeckia, Acaena (Bidibidi), Broom, Fruit trees, Pittosporum, Manuka, Hebe, Cabbage tree, and many others!