



Hi! I'm Lily, the Pacific green tree frog. Even though bugs are my favorite snack, I'll leave some of these good bugs in your garden.

# GOOD GUYS IN THE GARDEN

*These creepy, crawly creatures help protect your garden!*



**Ant lion larvae (doodlebugs) build funnel-shaped "traps" in the sand. Their prey fall into these pits and can't escape.**

They are lurking everywhere: in your lawn, in flower beds and in your vegetable garden. Armies of bugs, marching up stems, dangling from leaves and flying from flower to flower. They have names like **ant lion, assassin bug, pirate bug, robber fly and tiger beetle**. Their job: to protect your garden from the bad bugs that want to destroy your plants!

## It's a big, buggy world

There are over one million kinds of insects in the world. Lots of insects are pesty. They bite us, sting us and get in our food. Even though we think bugs are bad, we can't survive without them. Bugs pollinate flowers so plants can produce the fruits and vegetables we eat. Bugs also help break down dead plants and animals into valuable organic matter. Many bugs eat other bugs that destroy plants in our garden. We call these good guys "beneficial bugs."

## Beneficial bugs to the rescue

All gardens provide tasty snacks for bad bugs. They suck sap from leaves, munch on flowers and vegetables, and devour plant roots. If too many bad bugs invade a garden, some plants in the garden can be destroyed. Many people think the only way to fight these bugs is to spray them with pesticides. This may sound like a good idea, but too many pesticides kill good bugs too and can harm other animals, people and our environment. Instead of using pesticides, why not let the beneficial bugs help?

Beneficial bugs help us by preying on the bugs that invade our garden. Planting different kinds of flowers and other plants will help attract beneficial bugs to your yard.



## BUG SCAVENGER HUNT!

Can you find any of these beneficial bugs in your yard? You can make this scavenger hunt a contest with your parents, brothers, sisters or friends. Using the pictures on the right, try to identify some of these bugs in your garden. Give yourself two points for each bug you find. Give yourself five extra points if you see a good bug eating a bad bug. Add up your points to see who wins!

## Beneficial bugs in your garden



### Ant Lions

Just as their name suggests, ant lions trap ants and other small insects. The ant lion larvae, called doodlebugs, dig holes in sand to trap their prey.



### Assassin Bugs

Watch out! These guys can bite. Assassin bugs are very beneficial in vegetable gardens, where they eat aphids and many types of beetles that attack potatoes, tomatoes, and other veggies.



### Pirate Bugs

These tiny bugs love to eat scale insects, thrips and other pests that destroy flowers. The black and white adults are tiny; only 1/8" long.



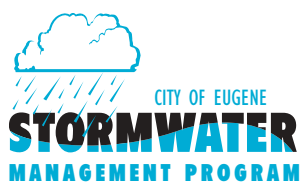
### Robber Flies

These flying insects catch bugs in the air above your garden. They are especially fond of grasshoppers and wasps. Robber fly larvae eat grasshopper eggs and white grubs.



### Tiger Beetles

Adult tiger beetles trap ants, aphids, grasshoppers and other crawling insects. You can spot them at night around outside lights.



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