

ANIMALS IN AGRICULTURE

Module 6
OPTIONAL
Teacher Print Kit



Instructions: print **double-sided**, on the **short-edge**.



GARDENER'S SECRET SCAVENGER HUNT: TEACHER INSECT LIST

Aerators



Pest Managers



Pollinators



Decomposers



Pest Managers

Many insects serve to control pests in the garden. Beneficial insects can eat insects that eat plants or spread disease. Beneficial insects can also dominate areas suitable for the growth of young larvae, making it challenging for pest insects to breed.

Aerators

Aerating insects create channels in the soil for water and air to move through the soil. Without aeration, roots can lose access to water, the soil nutrients dissolved in the water, and air, creating a detrimental environment for the plants growing in the soil.

Decomposers

Decomposing insects break down organic material into usable nutrients for plants (and sometimes animals). These insects help to create excellent soil health, as well as reduce disease by breaking down plant material before harmful bacteria have the opportunity to initiate the decomposition process.

Pollinators

Pollinating insects transport pollen from one flower to another, enabling the production of fruit and seeds. Many pollinators today are endangered, largely due to pesticide use. About 35% of the world's food crops are dependent on pollinators.¹²