

Residential Habitat and Beneficial Insects

Question: Why might residents be concerned about declining insect populations?

Answer: In short, insects pollinate the food we eat, the trees and flowers we admire, and are the base of the food chain.

Background: According to Reuters December 6, 2022, article 'Collapse of Insects':

"As human activities rapidly transform the planet, the global insect population is declining at an unprecedented rate of up to 2% per year. Amid deforestation, pesticide use, artificial light pollution and climate change, these critters are struggling — along with the crops, flowers and other animals that rely on them to survive. Insects are the food that make all the birds and make all the fish. They're the fabric tethering together every freshwater and terrestrial ecosystem across the planet."

- The infographic below highlights the essential value insects have within the food chain.
- To learn how our home landscapes can support pollinators and beneficial insects, please visit the Penn State Center For Pollinator Research: <u>https://pollinators.psu.edu/landscaping-for-pollinators</u>

