HOW MANY OF THESE COOL CREATURES CAN YOU FIND IN YOUR YARD?

When you find one, put an X on the line. Do you have more beneficial guests or unwanted pests? Why is that?

**BENEFICIAL GUESTS**

- **Spiders** make webs. Let them stay! They trap and eat flying bugs like flea beetles and other pests that may want to eat your vegetables.

- **Parasitic wasps** lay their eggs in a host critter’s body. When the eggs hatch, they eat the host from the inside out, ridding you of unwanted pests.

- **Birds** like robins eat a variety of destructive insects and small critters including one of the worst garden pests, slugs!

- **Ground beetles** are great for keeping insects of any stage; pupa, larva or nymph, in check above as well as under the ground.

- **Ladybugs** have a huge appetite for aphids, mealybugs and other pesky insects that are commonly found dining on leafy vegetables.

- **Bats** love to eat insects! Brown bats eat mosquitoes, moths and more, helping to control the destructive cabbage moth caterpillar population.

- **Bees** like honeybees are great pollinators, but other bees, like carpenter bees are quite common, harmless and do a great job pollinating as well.

- **Dragonflies** are found near water and are excellent hunters, devouring plenty of garden pests and, as a bonus, mosquitoes too!

- **Praying mantis**' will dine on all sorts of harmful garden pests and will even snack on small rodents!

- **Butterflies** are great pollinators and provide added color and beauty to the garden.

**UNWANTED PESTS**

- **Slugs** may move slow and eat at night so check your plants each evening. Remove them yourself and leave them in a safe spot for the birds.

- **Squash vine borer** insects aren’t the problem, it’s their worm-like larvae that eat squash, cucumber and plants in the pumpkin family.

- **Groundhogs** will eat everything in your garden if given the chance! They dig holes, chew through plastic and often invite family members for dinner.

- **Flea beetles** are common in the spring and fall, chomping the leaves of plants in the cabbage family. Planting mint or thyme may keep them away.

- **Stink bugs** get their name from the odor they release defending themselves. They feed on the juices from plants by sucking on the leaves.

- **Colorado potato beetle** larvae and adults eat the leaves of potato, eggplant and tomato plants, hurting or even killing the crops.

- **Whiteflies** can be found in large numbers on the leaves of plants in the cabbage family sucking the juices from the leaves.

- **Mexican bean beetles** are native to central Mexico, and will eat all the leaves on your bean plants if left alone!

- **Tomato hornworm** caterpillar is the juvenile form of the hawk moth. As the name implies, they feed on tomatoes and other plants in the garden.

- **Cucumber beetles** can wreak havoc on plants in the pumpkin family! They suck on plant leaves, feeding on the juices found inside.