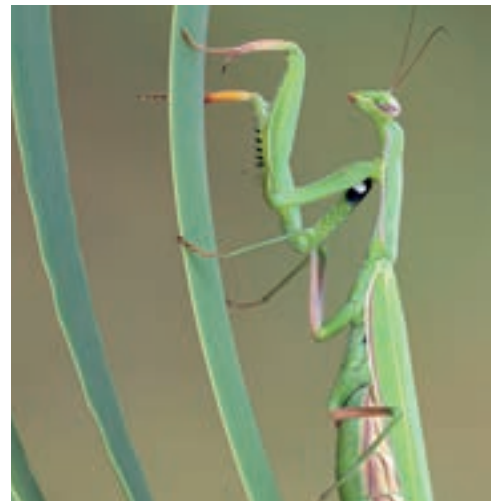


Pollinators and Predators

Pollinators obtain food in the form of energy-rich nectar and/or protein-rich pollen from the flowers they visit. In return, the pollinated flowers are able to develop and produce seed. While food is often a sufficient lure for pollinators, flowering plants also attract pollinators using a combination of shape, scent, and/or color. For example, some plants use mimicry to deceive animals into visiting their flowers without having to provide a reward.

Predators rid the garden of insects and larvae that are harmful to plants. The most widely known beneficial beetles are the pretty little ladybugs. Their shining rounded wing-cases, and bright colors make them conspicuous objects. The ones most commonly noticed are red, spotted with black. Quietly and silently they perform the work of extermination before our eyes, their worth entirely unheeded.

The elongated ground-beetle, is a carnivorous beetle. Its color is shining black, bordered with deep blue. It is often met with in our gardens, and preys indiscriminately upon all soft-bodied larvae — especially upon the larvae of the Colorado Potato-beetle.





Soil for the Garden

The basis of successful vegetable cultivation lies in the thorough working and preparation of the soil along the lines best suited to its texture and composition, coupled with adequate fertilization. Soils are very variable, and in order to obtain the best results it is essential that each cultivator should have at least an elementary knowledge of the type of soil with which he is dealing, so that he may work and manure the soil to the best advantage, and at the same time realize to the fullest possible extent its natural resources. This does not in any way imply the depletion of the soil. On the contrary, if the methods of cultivation and manuring are conceived along right lines and efficiently executed in practice, the soil fertility becomes gradually built up and permanently increased over time, and this should be one of the chief aims in all soil operations.

With the exception of peaty soils, which are mainly of vegetable origin, all soils have been formed primarily by the accumulation of particles of mineral materials, consisting chiefly of sand and clay, along with other inorganic substances. And although these materials form the basis of all fertile soils, they are, by themselves, incapable of supporting plant life.



