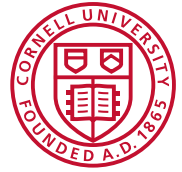


Cornell Cooperative Extension

Cornell Garden-Based Learning



Insect Orders Activity

Learning Objectives: Become familiar with the orders of beneficial & common garden insects.

Time: 25 minutes

Supplies for each small group:

- 1 set of the Flash Cards Insect Orders
- Handout *The Big Eight*

Directions:

Divide people into small groups, provide each team with flash cards and handout and read these instructions:

*You have been given a set of flash cards showing **adult** stage insects. Keep the cards face up. **Try not to look at the back.** You have also been given an insect order sheet with 8 of the most common insect orders that you may encounter as a gardener. Some of these insects you may be familiar with already, some may not even look like an insect to you.*

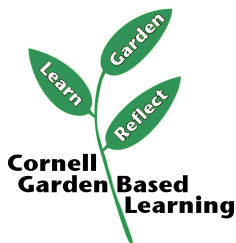
Your first task as a group is to look at each card and try to determine which insect order it belongs to. Don't try to identify to the genus, only to the order. Look at the characteristics that may give you a clue: number of wings, wing covers, mouthparts, eyes, antennae and general body shape. (You may not have a card for each order in your group). If you are all really stumped, you may look at the back.

Once you have sorted the cards by order, look at each card in a given order and try to determine if that particular insect is a pest insect, a beneficial insect, or neither. What makes you think so? Some of these you may know – some may surprise you. (Remember that these photos are of the adult stage and that may not be “pest” stage, or the most beneficial stage). If you are all really stumped, you may look at the back.

We'll have time for discussion and Q & A.

After teams have had time to try to complete their tasks on their own, let them consult with other groups and then bring the whole group back together to discuss:

- What was challenging about this activity?
- What questions surfaced?
- How might you learn more and sharpen your skills of insect identification?



References: Jason Dombroskie's insect photo collection; Earth Partnership for Schools, University of Wisconsin.

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Reviewer: Fiona Doherty

Building Strong and Vibrant New York Communities

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