Improve pest management by planting native plants, Brian A. Kunkel and Carrie J. Murphy, University of Delaware Coop. Extension

- Integrated pest management (IPM) manages pests by integrating cultural, biological, and chemical management practices.
- Most insects found around a business or home are not pests.
- Cultural methods may include:
  - choosing plants native to the area
  - planting plants in suitable location (proper light, pH, soil moisture, etc)
  - Reduce plant stress
  - plant a diverse group of plants
  - select plants resistant to common arthropod pests
  - provide alternative food sources for beneficial insects and arthropods
- Biological control practices include:
  - tolerance of arthropods around the property
  - tolerance sustains food in an area for the beneficial arthropods
  - Beneficial arthropods such as: spiders, ladybugs, parasitoids, ground beetles, lacewings, and assassin bugs
  - Insectivorous birds such as: blue birds, Carolina wren, tufted titmouse, Gray catbird, yellow warbler, etc.
- Chemical control may include:
  - horticultural oil or insecticidal soap
  - other products labeled for pest control, but use ones with favorable effects on the environment and beneficial arthropods.
- Increase plant biodiversity to increase the diversity of wildlife
  - Chickadees, sparrows, mocking birds, woodpeckers, etc.
  - Increases in biodiversity often reduces chances of pest outbreaks
- This poster provides suggestions for plants to increase plant, wildlife, and arthropod biodiversity around a property.

Sources:

Beneficial Arthropods

- Spiders are beneficial arthropods

Encourage Natural Enemies with Plant Selection

Native Trees for greater Diversity

- Black cherry
- White Oak
- American beech tree

Native Perennials for greater Diversity

- Chelone glabra
- Rosa rugosa
- Aster divaricatus
- Chelone glabra
- Rosa rugosa

Bottom-line...you can make a difference!

- Choose plants carefully; plant natives.
- Right plant in the right location- grow plants in the proper location with the proper growing conditions.
- Increase the number of native plants you grow, and you will increase the wildlife biodiversity around your home!