



Learn More about Insects

The world of information about insects is as vast as the diversity of insects themselves. Here are some recommended books, apps, and sites to get you started with learning and understanding the insects around you. All recommended books are available at Olbrich's Schumacher Library. To access the online catalog go to <https://www.librarycat.org/lib/OlbrichGardens>

Identification Guides

Garden Insects of North America: The Ultimate Guide to Backyard Bugs by Whitney Cranshaw (2017)

Bees: An Identification and Native Plant Forage Guide by Heather N. Holm (2017)

A Pocket Guide to Butterflies & Moths by Elizabeth Balmer (2007)

The Life Cycles of Butterflies: From Egg to Maturity, a Visual Guide to 23 Common Garden Butterflies by Judy Burris (2006)

Caterpillars of Eastern North America: A Guide to Identification and Natural History by David L. Wagner (2005)

Caterpillars in the Field and Garden: a Field Guide to the Butterfly Caterpillars of North America by Thomas J. Allen (2005)

Discovering Moths: Nighttime Jewels in Your Own Backyard by John Himmelman (2002)

Supporting Insects and Wildlife

The Nature of Oaks: The Rich Ecology of Our Most Essential Native Trees by Douglas W. Tallamy (2021)

Wasps: Their Biology, Diversity, and Role as Beneficial Insects and Pollinators of Native Plants by Heather N. Holm (2021)

Plant Partners: Science-based Companion Planting Strategies to Minimize Disease, Reduce Pests, Improve Soil Fertility, and Support Pollination in the Vegetable Garden by Jessica Walliser (2020)

Bee Hotel: All You Need to Know in One Concise Manual: 30 DIY Insect Home projects by Melanie von Orlow (2019)

Nature's Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation That Starts in Your Yard by Douglas W. Tallamy (2019)


Our Native Bees: North America's Endangered Pollinators and the Fight to Save Them by Paige Embry (2018)


The Bee-Friendly Garden: Design an Abundant, Flower-Filled Yard that Nurtures Bees and Supports Biodiversity by Kate Frey (2016)


Pollinator Friendly Gardening: Gardening for Bees, Butterflies, and Other Pollinators by Rhonda Fleming Hayes (2016)


Bringing Nature Home: How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants by Douglas W. Tallamy (2007)

Recommended Free Apps Available on Apple App Store and Google Play

 *iNaturalist*: Science-based crowdsourcing app that is a joint initiative by the California Academy of Sciences and the National Geographic Society. Uses similar sightings in the same area for a positive identification.
<https://www.inaturalist.org/>

 *Seek*: Another iNaturalist app but does not require an iNaturalist account. You don't need to login or take a photo. Just hover over the plant/insect/animal with your smart phone camera for identification.
https://www.inaturalist.org/pages/seek_app

 *Bug Identifier*: Privately-owned app that uses machine learning to identify bugs and spiders from photos.

 *Leps*: Privately-owned app focusing on butterflies and moths. Connects users to an online community of Lepidoptera enthusiasts.
<https://leps.fieldguide.ai/figures>

Other Online Resources

UW Insect Diagnostic Lab: Provides identification of insects, insect-damaged materials, spiders, and other arthropods
<https://insectlab.russell.wisc.edu/> or email UW Insect Diagnostic Lab Director PJ Liesch at pliesch@wisc.edu

Ask an Entomologist: Q&A blog by three PhD entomologists who also share recommended resources
<https://askentomologists.com/>

BugGuide: Online community of naturalists sharing observations
<https://bugguide.net/node/view/15740>

Picture Insect: Privately-owned free searchable online insect encyclopedia
<https://pictureinsect.com/>

Homegrown National Park: Doug Tallamy's site on participating in the Homegrown National Park movement
<https://homegrownnationalpark.org/>

Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation: Site of the Xerces Society, an international nonprofit organization that protects the natural world through the conservation of invertebrates and their habitat
<https://xerces.org/>

Wisconsin Monarch Collaborative: A consortium of organizations and individuals across the state dedicated to conserving the monarch butterfly
<https://wiatri.net/projects/monarchs/>

Wild Ones: A national organization with local chapters that promote native plants and insect habitats
<https://wildones.org/>