

Fascinating Facts about Beetles



Photos from Kansas St. Univ. & Dept of Ag.

Facts from www.lhwmp.org/home/ChemToxPesticides/goodbug.aspx

You can attract Beetles and other beneficial insects to your garden by mulching your beds with fallen leaves or wood chips, and by planting flowers that look like 'pancakes' or 'umbrellas'.

- Ground Beetles like to hide under a rock all day and hunt all night, eating cutworms, root maggots, slug and snail eggs. They are very shiny black with a metallic sheen, but their larvae are white with a red head!
- Rove Beetles are a 'cousin' to Black Beetles, and they eat aphids, springtails, mites, nematodes, slugs, snails, fly eggs, and maggots. They can crawl very fast, and if they feel scared they will wave their hind end up in the air to try and frighten you away!
- Ladybugs and Lady Beetles are different names for the same insect. Their larvae look like tiny black and red striped alligators, and are good at crawling around to eat aphids, mealybugs, scale insects, and spider mites. When they grow wings and turn into adults, they fly to the nearest 'pancake' flower to snack on nectar & insect pests!
- Soldier Beetles are a 'cousin' to Lightning Bugs. They have juice inside them that tastes bad, so they don't get eaten by birds or animals. They like to gather in big groups on 'umbrella' flowers to drink nectar, then look around for pest insects to eat for dessert!
- Centipedes are not beetles, but are beneficial. Having lots of legs means they can zip around very quickly, and are good at catching slugs and fly pupae that live in the soil. They have venom and might give you a little bite that hurts, so you should *not* try to catch them.