



Plant hunt: blooms and beneficials

Complete the Flowering and Beneficial Plant Hunt below to determine how likely you are to attract insects to your garden.

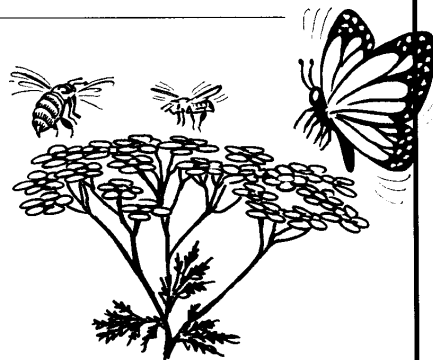
Date _____ Time _____

Weather _____

1. Count the number of plants with flowers on them: _____

2. List the colors of flowers blooming in your garden: _____

3. One way to identify beneficial plants is that many of them have flat, horizontal flower clusters that serve as landing platforms for insects. Count the number of plants with flat umbrella like flower clusters: _____



4. Count the number of herb plants with strong smells such as rosemary, sage, oregano, mint, or basil: _____

5. Calculate the percentage of plants in your garden that are flowering plants. Divide the number of flowering plants by the total number of plants in your garden. Move the decimal point two places to the right to get a percentage.

of total plants | # of flowering plants

Example: Karen has 10 plants in her garden. Five of them are flowering.

10 $\overline{) 5.0}$

Then move the decimal two places to the right:

.5 (which is the same as .50) becomes 50, or 50 percent

Conclusion:

How many herbs, flowers, and beneficial plants you should have in a garden depends on your gardening goals. But whenever possible, allow various colors of flowers to make up least 5 to 10% of your garden or the surrounding area, and include at least a few beneficial plants and herbs.