



FACULTY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES & ALLIED INDUSTRIES

ENT -321 Management of Beneficial Insects 2 (1+1)

Lecture-2: Importance of Beneficial Insects:

Beneficial insects are those species of insects that perform valued services like pollination, production of economic important items, scavenger and pest control. The concept of beneficial is subjective and only arises in light of desired outcomes from a human perspective.

Pollinators:

Pollinators Insects are those flower-visiting insects that rum around flowering plants to obtain food in the form nectar and pollen. Flower-visiting insects have the potential to transfer male gametes (contained in pollen) to the female gametes while rummaging around the flowers. Eg. Bees, flies, beetles etc.

Natural Enemies:

Those predators' insect and parasitoids that attack and feed on other insects, particularly on harmful insect pests of plants are considered as natural enemies. Eg Predators like lacewing and lady bird beetles, parasitoids and parasites.

Weed Killers:

Many insects feed upon unwanted weeds just the same manner they do with the cultivated crops. Eg Mexican beetle on congress grass, *Oxycetonia versicolor* on *Lantana camara*.

Soil Builders:

Insects that live in the soil make tunnels to improve soil aeration, create channels for smaller organisms, water, air, and roots to travel through. Eg. dung beetles

Scavengers:

Insects that feed on the dead and decaying matter of plants and animals are called scavengers. Eg. Flies, Cockroaches and Ants.

Productive Insects:

Insects, used for the production of various valuable materials and food are known as productive insects. Eg bees for honey, silkworm for silk, lac insects for lac and other medicinal important insects.