

Purdue University
Department of Entomology
Undergraduate Capstone
Project Summary

Name of Student:

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Name of Mentor:

Dr. Ian Kaplan

Project Title:

Common Beneficial and Pest Insects in Gardens and Crops

Project Summary:

For this capstone project, a collection was created to display many of the common insects encountered in different landscapes in Indiana. The collection was divided into a section showcasing common beneficial insects and a section showcasing common pest insects. These specimens were taken from the teaching collection in the department. Some of the specimens are displayed by species, and some are displayed as larger taxonomic groups, according to how important that grouping is to the insects' status as pests or beneficial.

In addition to the collection, an information catalog was created using Microsoft Publisher to go along with the display. Each group or species of insects in the collection has a page dedicated to it in the catalog to be referenced for more information relating to each insect. The pages currently have pictures, information regarding ways to identify the pest in different life stages, some behavioral characteristics, and some management options.

This collection was created to aid in providing information to Indiana homeowners at various types of extension or outreach events. It is hoped that the collection will continue to grow with the addition of more insects, specifically different life stages of the insects already present in the collection. For the last part of the project, the collection was brought to a master gardener meeting at the Purdue extension office in Lafayette and a brief overview of its purpose was described to the master gardeners.