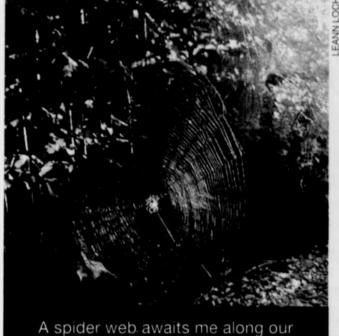
Bugalicious

voices-



garden path

I've been walking through our garden waving a broom as I go. Spider webs and their owners are everywhere come late summer and into fall-gardens are busy places for these spinning ladies. I've come to expect them in August and September, but not everyone welcomes them as much as I do. AndI have to say, people who scream at the sight of a bug get on my last nerve. People, you do not need to have your yard sprayed at the first sight of an insect. Unless you know what kind of bug it is, it's the bad bugs—so let it be and take a few deep breaths. Just had to get that off my chest...

Here's the scoop on spiders: They're arachnids, not insects. The creatures actively spinning webs in my garden right now are most the sassy gardener BY LEANN LOCHER

the center for their next victim—I mean, dinner. Hopefully it's not my face, but even if I do walk into their webs unknowingly, they little nesting as the females prepare to lay you see hoverflies, be a happy gardener. their eggs in the fall.

garden, and there are bugs who eat those damaging bugs. Our job is to know which are good and which are bad, and help to encourage the good ones to stick around. Here's a primer.

Good bugs in the garden:

Ladybugs—They're not just pretty, they're also great eaters of those dreaded aphids. The best way to promote ladybugs in your garden, quite likely it's a good one—the kind that eats as well as other beneficial insects, is to not use pesticides. Pesticides can't tell the difference between pesky and beneficial insects and will simply kill them all. Once we stopped using pesticides in our garden, the ladybug hotline passed along the message there was a nice, big

likely garden spiders, or orb weavers. They like aphid buffet at our place and the ladies came to spin elaborate webs and often wait right in with empty stomachs. You can buy ladybugs at garden centers, but there's no guarantee they'll stick around once you open that bag.

Hoverflies-Often mistaken for bees, adult it comes to sex. don't bother me: I just like to make sure the hoverflies fly more quickly (or hover) than little guy isn't somewhere in my hair. They're bees, but their larvae like to eat aphids and spinning like mad this time of year, doing a scale insects. Munch, munch, munch: Should

So there are bugs who do damage in your larvae and adult lacewings prey on aphids, mealybugs and other small insects: bonus score! Lacewings are about a half-inch long antennae.

> sum, spearmint, crimson clover and flowering a Brazilian caterpillar. Ever. Never. Ever. Lo buckwheat. In fact, if you have a bad case of can help to lure hoverflies.

Bugs. There aren't many books that make me Read more about her explorations at lelonopo. mutter out loud as I read them, but Wicked com or connect at facebook.com/sassygardener.

Bugs: The Louse That Conquered Napoleon's Army & Other Diabolical Insects did just that. "Good god," "Oh my lord" and "Wow" could be heard as I turned the pages of Amy Stewart's latest jaunt with wicked things. (She's also the author of Wicked Plants: The Weed That Killed Lincoln's Mother & Other Botanical Atrocities.) I've now been schooled in many a gross bug habit, including the likes of the filth fly, death-watch beetle and the scabies mite. If their names make your skin crawl, their habits will really get you going, or fascinate you, especially when

Did you know a female praying mantid will often bite off the head of the male she's copulating with? Or that the male Australian golden orb-weaver spider can find himself unable to Green and Brown Lacewings—Both the detangle from his mate and will break off a part of his own sexual organ, leaving it inside the female? I can hear you from here: "Wow" is right.

Besides the amazing sex stories of bugs, the with large, light green or brown wings and book is full of gross-out tales perfect to share with your preteen niece, which is precisely Plant to attract beneficial bugs. OSU's De- what I did recently. Stewart has a wry voice partment of Horticulture has researched what and style, making this a great page-turner. I'm plants attract predators to pests in Oregon. still a defender of bugs, but this Wicked tome They include cilantro, yarrow, tansy, sweet alys- has me never wanting to come in contact with

aphids, planting cilantro and sweet alyssum LeAnn Locher is an OSU Extension Master Gardener and gardens with plenty of bugs and at Speaking of bad bugs, let's talk Wicked least 2,472 spiders in her North Portland garden.

