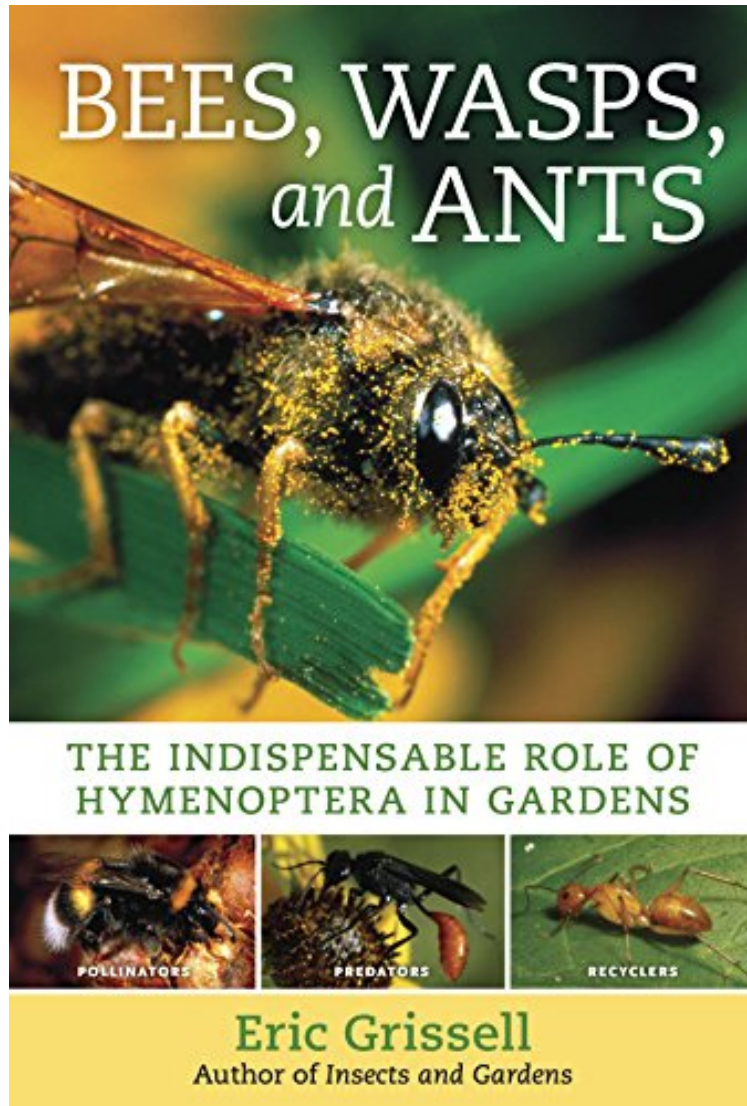


# Bees, Wasps, and Ants: The Indispensable Role of Hymenoptera in Gardens

*Eric Grissell*

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**Eric Grissell : Bees, Wasps, and Ants: The Indispensable Role of Hymenoptera in Gardens** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Bees, Wasps, and Ants: The Indispensable Role of Hymenoptera in Gardens:

12 of 12 people found the following review helpful. Informative and entertaining By Barbara Pleasant To an amateur entomologist like me, this book is a dream come true. Eric Grissell uses enough scientific lingo to keep topics clear,

but often wanders into personal territory as he explores the lives of bees, wasps and ants. Some of his stories are surprisingly funny! As head garden writer for Mother Earth News, I initially picked up this book to learn more about wasps and hornets - personal passions for years. Now Grissell has me interested in ants. Although I don't have room for more books, I'm making room for this one next to Whitney Cranshaw's Garden Insects of North America. If you're fascinated by insects, you need both. 19 of 20 people found the following review helpful. Great introduction to a feared and misunderstood group of insects. By Afan of Sitagyl Manor I absolutely love this book and find it to be a most valuable guide to a much-feared group of insects. As a shutterbug new to macro photography of insects, I have become immersed in a world most people ignore unless they are frightened by an aggressive Hymenopteran. The photos in this book are first rate and have helped me with identification of my own tiny subjects. As the author points out, this is not a field guide per se, but a sound introduction to the natural history and biology of these insects. Their roles in nature are complex and fascinating. This book is aimed at serious students of insect life and garden enthusiasts. The writing is clear albeit somewhat technical at times, which is to be expected as it is a science book. The author is especially good on the Parasitoid Wasps, the main focus of his own professional work in the field. If you enjoy above average science books and have an interest in gardening or insect photography you should get yourself a copy of this book. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fun With Bees, Wasps and Ants. By Elaine We all know bees, wasps and ants are fascinating critters; Eric Grissell's sense of humor and deep knowledge make this book a delight to read. Now I know what all of those large hairy and tiny hairless winged things have been doing out there among the roses, hostas, eggplants and peas. Nature can be cruel but the horrors inflicted by wasps and ants would be difficult to invent, even for the most twisted of inventors. All of this makes for interesting, provocative reading. It's a book that made me, at 73, approach my garden with renewed childlike wonder.

Few insects are more important than bees, wasps, and ants. They maintain the gardens biological balance, fertilize vegetables, fruits, and flowers, and recycle nutrients within the soil. Its no exaggeration to say that a garden cant be understood without an understanding of its insects. Bees, Wasps, and Ants explores the importance of the Hymenoptera and explains how gardeners can encourage (or discourage) them in the garden. Part One includes a summary of their biology and a tour of what role they play in each part of the garden. Part Two takes a closer look at the individual groups within the family, including sawflies, horntails, woodwasps, parasitic wasps, predatory wasps, bees, and ants. Bees, Wasps, and Ants is sure to persuade even the most insectphobic reader to invite these fascinating creatures into their gardens.

From Booklist If ever a group of garden creatures gets a bad rap, its bees, ants, and wasps. Yet, as Grissell so strikingly points out, most of the time their negative reputation is either grossly overstated or decidedly undeserved. Although the role of the order Hymenoptera in garden settings is of vital importance, most homeowners and quite a few gardeners do whatever they can to remove nests, hills, and hives at first sight. Its a knee-jerk reaction that can have devastating results, for these creatures are essential for pollination, fertilization, and even pest-control. ing their impact, revealing their habits and habitats, and profiling them via such inventive terms as the gardens cows, wolves, and police, Grissell strikes a fine balance between scientific examination and anecdotal evidence. Although not sufficiently illustrated to serve as a field guide, Grissells extensive exploration of this insect order is highly informative and genuinely useful. --Carol Haggas Grissell brings years of study and an infectious enthusiasm to this beautifully illustrated volume. SciTech Book News From the impact of insects on our lives to their biology and families, this is packed with detailed information tailored to gardener and growing interests, and thus is recommended for home and garden collections as well as any science library. Bookwatch An introduction to the myriad species of these insects and all they do in your garden. This book will give you new appreciation and a deeper understanding of their vital roles on this planet. The American Gardener This book provides an entertaining and useful introduction to a vast portion of the insect world. Garden in a City