



UNITED STATES BOTANIC GARDEN

BATS ARE BENEFICIAL!

Bats are often killed out of fear or superstition and are hurt by habitat loss, but bats are really helpful. There are over 1,300 species of bats worldwide and over 1,000 of them are endangered.



Pest Controlled

Bats are Protectors

Bats consume millions of insects every night, including mosquitoes, saving billions of dollars in pesticide use and reducing insect damage to crops.



Pollinated

Bats are Pollinators

Bats spread pollen as they visit flowers to drink nectar. Wild bananas, avocados, saguaro cacti, and agaves are among the hundreds of plants that depend on bats for pollination.



Seed Dispersed

Bats are Dispersers

Fruit bats eat many tropical fruits and pass the seeds as they fly. Many rain forest plants grow from seeds dispersed by bats.



A Dawn Bat (*Eonycteris spelaea*) pollinating a wild banana (*Musa* sp.) flower in Thailand. ©Merlin Tuttle