

# Why Do We Need Rotten Wood in the Forest?

Rotting logs are called "nurse logs" because they provide food and shelter to bugs and fungi. They also retain water during dry months.

Ground beetles grow up in the wet, crumbling texture of the rotten log. They eat slugs that would otherwise eat our food.

The rotten log creates space for this wood borer beetle to lay eggs. Beetles pollinate flowers and tear up logs.

White-rot fungi digests wood and dead leaves, making the nutrients available to living plants.



Northern Flickers eat wood-eating carpenter ants to keep their population in balance.

Carpenter ants do more than chew wood. They also pollinate flowers as they gather food.

Assassin bugs kill pests like this blueberry maggot fly.

Grubs hatch in logs, grow up in the soil, and keep living roots healthy by eating the dead roots. After months underground the grubs emerge as beetles in the spring.

Rotting wood makes airspace below ground for worms and other soil life to breathe.

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