

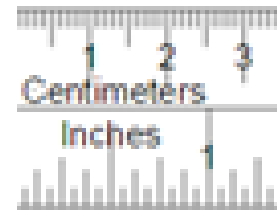
IDENTIFYING BENEFICIAL INSECTS

How to identify predators that can help control insect and mite pests

Green and Brown Lacewings



Actual Size: ½ inch

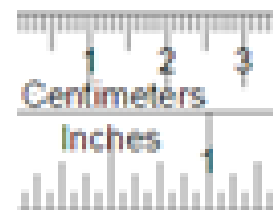


- Light brown or green bodies with see-through wings
- Adults and larvae feed on mealybugs, psyllids, thrips, mites, whiteflies, aphids, small caterpillars, leafhoppers, and insect eggs

Flower Flies (Hover Flies, Syrphid Flies)



Actual Size: 1/3 - 1 inch

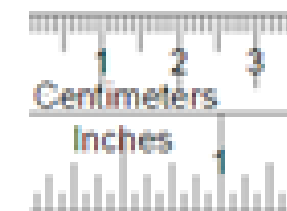


- Black and yellow bands on abdomen look like honeybees, but smooth and shiny with only two wings
- Larvae feed on aphids and other small, soft-bodied insects

Ladybird Beetles



Actual Size: 1/3 – ½ inch



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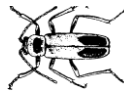
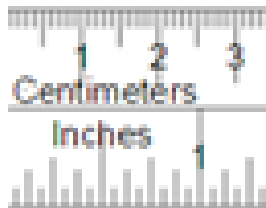
IDENTIFYING BENEFICIAL INSECTS

- Orange to red front wings with black spots, and larvae are long and blackish with orange bands or spots
- Larvae and adults eat whiteflies, aphids, soft-bodied insects, and insect eggs

Soldier Beetles



Actual Size: 0.3 – 0.6 inches

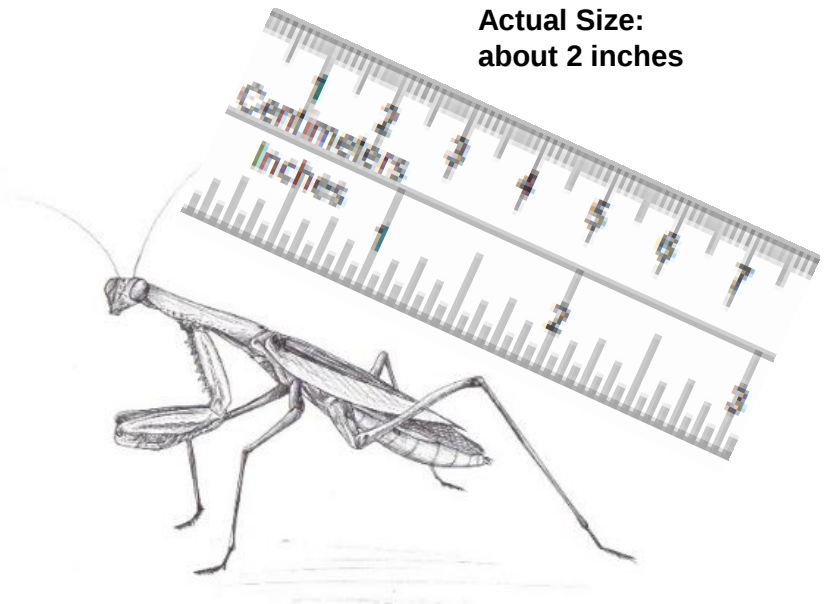


- Long red, orange or yellow heads with black wing covers
- Feed on aphids, pollen or nectar

Praying Mantis



Actual Size:
about 2 inches



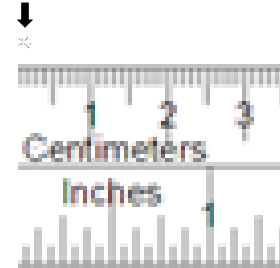
- Yellowish, green or brown long bodied insects with grasping forelegs
- Feed on pests and other beneficials

IDENTIFYING BENEFICIAL INSECTS

Predatory Mites



Actual Size: 0.5 mm



- Tiny, cream to red colored, with 8 legs like spiders and ticks
- Feed on other mites, eggs, and pollen

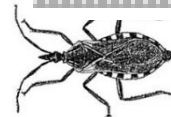
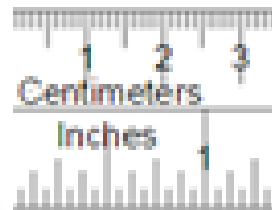
Predators in the True Bug Order (Hemiptera or Heteroptera):

The following predatory insects all belong to the order of true bugs, and can be recognized by the “X” pattern on their backs. This order also contains many pest species, but the insects shown here are all predators and eat other insects as their prey.

Assassin Bugs



Actual size: 0.2 to 1.6 inches



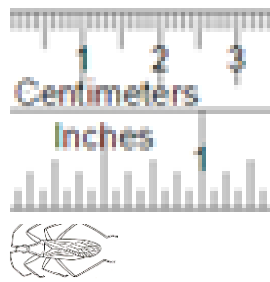
- Slender, often black, brown, or red
- Eats caterpillars, leafhoppers, aphids, and other true bugs

IDENTIFYING BENEFICIAL INSECTS

Damsel Bugs



Actual Size: ½ inch

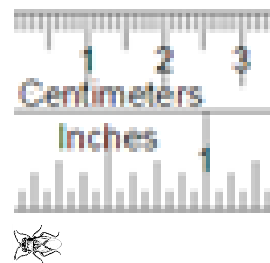


- Yellow, gray and light brown, long head with long antennae
- Adults and larvae feed on thrips, mites, aphids, other bugs, small caterpillars, and leafhoppers

Bigeyed Bugs



Actual size: 4 mm

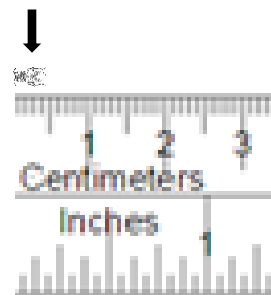


- Oval, brown or yellow, wide head with large bulging eyes
- Eats eggs, caterpillars, flea beetles, small bugs and mites

Minute Pirate Bugs



Actual size: 3 mm



- Very small, with purplish black and white checkered pattern
- Adults and nymphs feed on insect eggs and small insects such as psyllids, thrips, mites, aphids, whiteflies, and small caterpillars

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