

Beneficial Insects



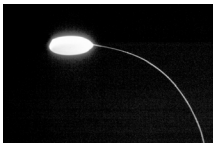
Assassin bugs attack almost any insect.



Green lacewing adults eat nectar and pollen. Some species also eat insects.



Green lacewing larvae feed on mites, eggs, and small insects, especially aphids.



Green lacewing eggs are laid on slender stalks in groups or individually, depending on the species.



Predaceous ground beetle adults stalk soil-dwelling insects, such as cutworms and root maggots.



Predaceous ground beetle larvae live on soil and in litter, feeding on almost any invertebrate.



Convergent lady beetle adults and most reddish lady beetle species prefer aphids.



Convergent lady beetle larvae prefer aphids but sometimes eat whiteflies and other soft-bodied insects.



Convergent lady beetle eggs are oblong, widest in their middle, usually yellowish or orange, and can be laid in groups or individually.



Western predatory mites attack pest mites.



Pirate bugs attack mites and any tiny insects, especially thrips.



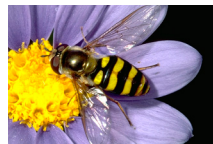
Praying mantids don't control pests, because they eat both beneficial insects and pests.



Soldier beetle adults eat mostly aphids. Their soil-dwelling larvae eat beetle and moth eggs and larvae.



Spiders, including crab spiders, attack all types of insects.



Syrphid fly (flower fly, hover fly) adults eat pollen and nectar and resemble honey bees and wasps.



Syrphid fly larvae eat mostly aphids, but also soft-bodied mealy-bugs, psyllids, and whiteflies.



Sixspotted thrips attack mostly mites.



Adults of predatory wasps, including paper wasps, prey on caterpillars and other insects.

Common beneficial predators can aid in curtailing garden pests. Encourage these natural enemies by:

- Avoiding pesticides that kill them.
- Choosing plants that provide them with pollen, nectar, and shelter.
- Keeping ants out of bug-infested plants.