

Beneficial Insects



Lady Beetle AKA: *Lady Bug*
Wanted For: Eating aphids, mealy bugs, spider mites and more.



Green Lacewings
Wanted for: Their children AKA: Aphid lions, eat insect eggs, small caterpillars, spider mites and more.



Garden Spider
Wanted for: Eating anything caught in its web.



Syrphid Flies
Wanted For: Their Children AKA: Flower Flies
These juveniles feed on aphids, young termites, ants, and bees.



Paper Wasp
Wanted For: Lethal injection of caterpillars



Praying Mantis
Wanted For: Eating anything.



Predatory Bugs AKA: Assassin Bug
Wanted for: Lethal injection of caterpillars and other insects as seen below.



Ground beetle
Wanted for:
Eating insects that crawl at night.

Lady Beetle: AKA: Lady bugs, love to devour aphids, but will also eat mealy bugs, spider mites, larvae of elm-leaf beetle and many other soft bodied insects and their eggs. Lady beetle larvae will also feed just as vigorously on the same diet as their parents.

Dragonfly: These insects depend entirely on other insects for their food supply. Their favorite meal is mosquitoes and flies.

Spider: Spiders aren't picky eaters. They will eat any insect that gets caught in its web.

Paper wasps: There are many kinds of wasps. Some are small, hard to see and parasitic. Others are big, like red wasps and hornets, and like to inject their eggs into caterpillars. Mud daubers love spiders and feed them to their young.

Praying Mantis: These insects wait for their prey, which is predominately other insects. The praying mantis isn't discriminatory. Any insect or spider will do including other praying mantises.

Ground Beetles: They hide during the day and prey at night on all kinds of insects. They come in all kinds of colors, shapes, and sizes. They like caterpillars, snails, slugs and other root-eating insects.

Syrphid flies: AKA: Flower flies or Hover flies, these can be brightly colored Syrphid and can look like small yellow jacket wasps. Since they are flies, they won't sting. larvae The larvae are voracious feeders of aphids, young termites, ants and bees.

Predatory Bugs: AKA: Assassin bug. These insects are aggressive predators. Predatory bugs include assassin bugs, damsel bugs, big eyed bugs, and the minute pirate bug. They eat caterpillars, spider mites, aphids, thrips, and leafhoppers. Adults are winged; nymphs (juveniles) are not, but look very much like the adults otherwise. Try not to pick these bugs up. They can give a hurtful bite which can easily become infected.

Green lacewing: Their larvae are also known as aphid lions. It's the green lacewings children, or larvae, that eat the lions share of aphids, leafhoppers, spider mites, thrips, moth eggs, and other soft bodied insects. The adults require nectar and pollen to live. If not available, they will leave for better gardens. Green lacewing larvae or Aphid lion, These are just a very few of the beneficial creatures which can inhabit your garden. The vast majority of insects are either good or harmless to your plants. Only a very few are actually considered bad. Pesticides not only kill the 'bad' insects but also kill the good. To learn more about gardening with beneficial insects and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) see the following: <http://insects.tamu.edu/> or <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/growgreen/downloads/beneficial.pdf>