

# Beneficial Predators

Protect beneficial predators or “natural enemies” by avoiding pesticides that kill them; choosing plants that provide them pollen, nectar, and shelter; and keeping ants out of pest-infested plants.

Common predators that eat outdoor pests are pictured below with bars showing their length. Photos by Jack Kelly Clark, UC IPM.



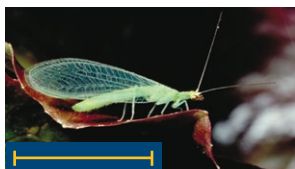
**Convergent lady beetle adults** (left) and most reddish lady beetle species prefer aphids. Their **larvae** (right) prefer aphids but sometimes eat whiteflies and other soft-bodied insects.



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



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



**Green lacewing adults** (left) eat nectar and pollen. Some species also eat insects. **Lacewing larvae** (right) feed on mites, eggs, and small insects, especially aphids.



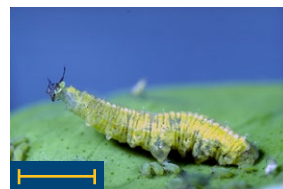
**Green lacewing eggs** are laid on slender stalks in groups (as shown here) or individually, depending on the species.



**Spiders**, including this crab spider, attack all types of insects.



**Syrphid fly (flower fly, hover fly) adults** eat pollen and nectar and resemble honey bees and wasps. The **larvae** eat mostly aphids but also soft-bodied mealybugs, psyllids, and whiteflies.



**Predaceous ground beetle adults** (left) stalk soil-dwelling insects, such as cutworms and root maggots. Their **larvae** (right) live on soil and in litter, feeding on almost any invertebrate.



**Assassin bugs** attack almost any insect.



**Pirate bugs** attack mites and any tiny insect, especially thrips.



**Western predatory mites** attack pest mites.



**Sixspotted thrips** attack mostly mites.



**Predatory wasps**, such as this paper wasp, prey on caterpillars and other insects.



**Praying mantids** may control pests, but they also eat other beneficials.

**Pesticides affect natural enemies, rivers, and oceans!**

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