



## Lacewings (predators)

### What to Look For

Lacewing larvae are very effective generalist predators thanks to their "fangs," used to suck the bodily fluids from their prey. Their eggs are small and white, often in clusters, perched at the end of a silky stalk.



*Lacewing eggs on top of a leaf*



*Lacewing larva*

### Appearance

Adults are green or brown with delicate net-veined wings.

Larvae are alligator-like with sickle shaped pincer mouthparts.

### Crops Protected

sweet corn  
potatoes  
tomatoes  
peppers  
eggplants  
leafy greens  
asparagus  
and many others

### Pests Attacked

aphids  
mites, thrips  
mealybugs  
caterpillars  
whiteflies  
insect eggs



*Adult lacewing on a garden flower*

### Lacewings

Lacewing adults are attracted to food and moisture. Plant flowers that give easy access to pollen and nectar, including coriander, fennel, angelica, sunn hemp, sunflowers, and daisy-family flowers. Place stones in your garden's water pool to give them a place to land and drink. Lacewings are also attracted to honeydew from aphids.



*Lacewing larva attacking a pest.*

### Predators

Predators are beneficial insects that attack, kill, or consume a wide variety of common pests. Males, females, immatures, and adults may all be predatory. Predators include lacewings, flies, spiders, beetles, true bugs, and predatory mites.



*Photo Credits: Front Top Image - Chrysopa oculata courtesy of ARS, Lacewing eggs on top of a leaf courtesy of Department of Entomology, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lacewing larva by Jack Dykinga for ARS. Adult lacewing on a garden flower by Thomas Brosson, Lacewing larva attacking a pest by sactorose@yahoo.com, Praying Mantis w/ prey by Tam Stuart, www.tlstuart@comcast.net .*