Encourage these 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 garden pests are pictured below with bars showing their length.

**Beneficial Predators**

**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.

**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.

**Lady beetle eggs** are oblong, usually yellowish or orange, and laid in groups or individually.

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

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

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

**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.

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

**Praying mantids** don’t control pests, because they eat both beneficials and pests.

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

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

Want more information? Visit [www.ipm.ucanr.edu](http://www.ipm.ucanr.edu).

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

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