

# Beneficial Insects



*Lacewing adult. Source: Frank Peairs (Bugwood).*



*Green lacewing larvae. Source: Bradley Higbee (Bugwood).*



*Lacewing egg on a stalk. Source: David Cappaert (Bugwood).*

## Lacewings

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Lacewings are beneficial insects that love to eat aphids, thrips, beetles, small caterpillars, and soft scales. They play an important role in pest control in small backyard gardens and farms. Lacewing adults are 0.5 to 1 inch long, have delicate clear wings with many veins, and hold their wings over their body when at rest. Most lacewing adults feed only on pollen, nectar, and honeydew. There are many different types of lacewings, separated into two larger groups of green and brown lacewings.

One of the most fascinating facts about green lacewings is that females lay their eggs on ½-inch stalks, either individually or in groups. The stalks may help protect one newly-hatched larva from being eaten by another and also reduce the risk that the eggs or developing larvae may be parasitized. Lacewing larvae are brown and are sometimes described as resembling tiny alligators. Another name for a green lacewing larva is an ant lion.