

# Predators: Lacewings



See also: <http://www.potatoes.com/research.cfm>



Photo: Stephen Luk

Snakeflies are close relatives of lacewings, and also predators.



There are two broad categories of lacewings commonly found in crops, the brown lacewings and green lacewings.



Photo: Jim Moore



Photo: Thom Schaefer



Photo: Marshall Dyer

Green lacewing larva (left) and the stalked egg (right).



Photo: John Maxwell

Brown lacewing larva.

## Lacewing biology

1. Lacewings (and snakeflies) are generalist predators in many crops, gardens, and natural settings. The larvae feed on softbodied prey by sucking body fluids through the long curved jaws. Adults chew up their small insect prey.
2. Lacewings occur throughout potato producing areas, but are only sometimes abundant in crops.
3. Like other predators, they are sensitive to many insecticides -- care must be taken to preserve them.

Washington State Potato Commission (Phone: 509-765-8845)

## Predators: Flower Flies (a.k.a. Syrphids)



See also: <http://www.potatoes.com/research.cfm>



Adults are not predators, but are mainly nectar feeders.



Flower flies often resemble bees or wasps.



Flower flies lay their eggs amongst their aphid prey.



Larvae are blind, free-living maggots that patrol for aphids by tapping their heads from side to side as they crawl on foliage.



### Flower fly biology

1. Many flower flies are generalist predators, specializing on aphids and other soft-bodied insects. Some flower flies, however, are not predators, feeding instead on decaying organic matter.
2. A large larva can wipe out dozens of aphids per day.
3. Flower flies are common in most habitats, but their larvae will usually be abundant only where prey densities are high.

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