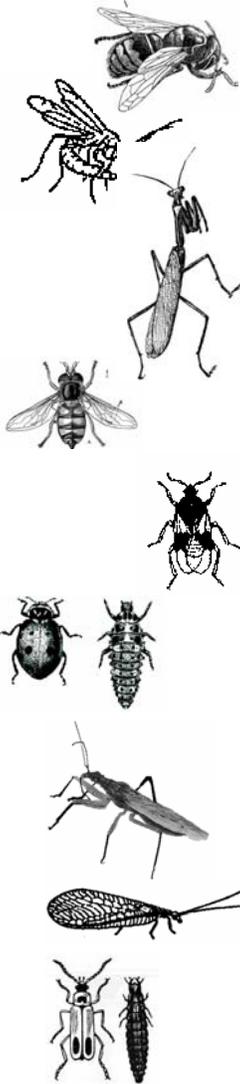




Beneficial Insects in Your Garden



Bees: (Pollinators) Bees are the main pollinators of all major fruit crops, apples, peaches, cherries, etcetera. To encourage them to visit the garden plant nectar flowers and provide a source of water. When left alone during their foraging bees will not sting humans. Bees die after stinging.

Parasitic Wasp: Tiny parasitic wasps are very important in the control of aphids in roses. Adults lay their eggs within the aphid and developing larvae, rapidly immobilizing them and eventually killing them. Wasps also control scale insects, caterpillars, and many other insect pests.

Praying Mantis: The mantis is a general feeder and has only one full generation each year, which tends to minimize the effectiveness of the mantis as a biological control agent. The egg case can vary in size and is usually found on the underside of a branch or large leaf.

Syrphid Fly (Hover flies): Important predators of aphids and common on roses. There are many species in California and they vary in color from dark brown to yellow or bright green, but most have a yellow longitudinal stripe on the back. Don't mistake for moth or butterfly larvae.

Minute Pirate Bug: These are tiny true bugs with black and white markings as adults. They are often the first predators to appear in spring. They feed on mites, insect and mite eggs, immature scales, and thrips.

Lady Beetle & larva: Many different red and black lady beetle species are predators of aphids. They feed primarily on aphids and are predators in both adult and larval stages. Look for the black alligator shaped larva with orange dots and the oblong yellow eggs that are laid on end in groups.

Damsel Bugs: They are dull gray or brown and elongated in shape. Adults have four wings and when folded create an X-shape on their back. Damsels and their nymphs feed on aphids, leafhoppers, and small caterpillars. They move quickly while hunting their smaller, slower prey.

Lacewings: Lacewings are common natural enemies of aphids and other soft bodies insects. The gray-green to brown alligator shaped larvae are the predatory stage of the species. The green lacy-winged adults feed on honeydew.

Soldier Beetle & pupae (Leather wings): Moderate to large sized beetles have leather-like dark wings and orange or red heads and thoraxes. They feed on aphids and are very common on roses. Sometimes they leave dark splotches of excrement on leaves.

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