

# Green Lacewing



GARDEN EARTH  
NATURALIST  

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ECO-SERVICE CARDS

# GREEN LACEWING

FAMILY: Chrysopidae

ORDER: Neuroptera

## IDENTIFICATION CLUES



- ◆ 3/8 - 5/8 inches long
- ◆ large, golden, compound eyes
- ◆ soft, green body
- ◆ two pairs of large, pale green, transparent wings with many veins; wings extend beyond the body



### Where to Look:

Lacewings are found in weeds, grass and on leaves of shrubs and trees in gardens and woodland edges.

### Who Eats It?

Lacewings give off a foul odor as a defense and attract few predators. They are occasionally eaten by birds.



### LIFE CYCLE

COMPLETE  
METAMORPHOSIS

Females lay stalked eggs that look like tiny clusters of mushrooms. The larvae are voracious predators of aphids and scale insects. They eventually pupate in silk cocoons from which the adults emerge.

### What It Eats.

Lacewings eat aphids, scale insects, larvae and other small insects.

### Role in the Ecosystem

The predatory larvae play an important role in controlling populations of insect pests like aphids and mealybugs.



### Did You Know

Green Lacewings are used in vineyards and greenhouses to kill mealybugs. They are very easy to raise.