



Parasitoids: Braconid Wasps

Hymenoptera:
Braconidae

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

Braconid wasps insert their eggs into insect hosts. Small, maggot-like wasp larvae emerge from the eggs and eat the host. Often the larvae will spin silken cocoons on or near the host's body.



Braconid wasp cocoons on a tomato hornworm

HOSTS

- caterpillars and moth larvae
- beetles
- fly larvae
- various insect pupae and adults

APPEARANCE

- small to medium sized dark wasps (7-8mm)

VEGETABLE CROPS

Found on or near a wide variety including:

- tomatoes
- cabbage
- corn
- beets

Natural Enemies of Vegetable Insect Pests in Hawaii





WHAT THEY ARE

Parasitoids are beneficial insects that prey on vegetable pests. Their eggs or larvae are usually found in or on a single insect host. The immature parasitoid develops on or within the host, ultimately killing the pest when it emerges as an adult. Most parasitoids are wasps or flies.

Braconid wasps are attracted to flowering plants, especially those with flat, small florets such as:

- parsley
- dill, fennel
- sunn hemp
- **composite flowers:** daisies, chamomile, marigolds

Mix these plants in between crops or in nearby gardens, hedges, or borders.



Dill flowers

WHAT THEY CAN DO FOR YOU



Braconid wasp ovipositing into a fruit fly on a guava fruit

PESTS ATTACKED

- aphids
- tomato hornworm
- various fruit flies
- leafminers
- diamondback moth
- armyworms

