Natural Enemies of Vegetable Insect Pests in Hawaii

Predators: Hover Flies

* Diptera: Syrphidae

**WHAT TO LOOK FOR**

- Adults resemble small bees or wasps, with black and yellow striping on the abdomen. Adult hover flies are important pollinators. Larvae are highly effective aphid predators, especially in gardens and small plots. Look for them on the underside of crop leaves and near aphid infestations.

*Hover fly larva feeding on aphids*

- Larvae maggots are green/grayish and “slug-like”, but move fast when attacking aphids!

**VEGETABLE CROPS**

Most attacked by aphids, especially:

- tomatoes
- sweet corn
- cole crops
- broccoli
Adult hover flies are attracted to all flowering plants that provide pollen and nectar, such as:
- small-flowered herbs: wild mustard, coriander, dill, fennel
- sunflowers, marigolds and daisies
- sunn hemp
- buckwheat
Allow these flowering plants and weeds to grow between crop plants.
Hoverfly larvae are most noticeable when aphid populations are established.

**WHAT THEY ARE**
Predators are beneficial insects that attack, kill, or consume a wide variety of common pests. Males, females, immatures, and adults may all be predatory. Predators include lacewings, flies, spiders, beetles, true bugs, and predatory mites.

**WHAT THEY CAN DO FOR YOU**
Adult hover flies on the head of a marigold

**PESTS ATTACKED**
- aphids
- leafhoppers
- mealy bugs
- thrips
- small caterpillars