Natural Enemies of Vegetable Insect Pests in Hawaii

Predators: Lacewings

Neuroptera: Chrysopidae

WHAT TO LOOK FOR
Lacewing larvae are very effective generalist predators thanks to their “fangs”, used to suck the bodily fluids from their prey. Eggs are small and white, often in clusters, perched at the end of a silky stalk.

APPEARANCE
• adults: green or brown with delicate net-veined wings
• larvae: alligator-like with sickle-shaped pincer mouthparts

VEGETABLE CROPS
Most, for example:
• sweet corn
• potatoes
• tomatoes
• peppers
• eggplants
• leafy greens
• asparagus

Top: Lacewing eggs on top of a leaf
Bottom: Lacewing larva
To attract adult lacewings, provide food and moisture. Plant flowers that give easy access to pollen and nectar:

- coriander, fennel, angelica
- sunn hemp, sunflowers
- daisy family flowers

Place stones in your garden’s water pool to give them a place to land and drink.

Lacewings are also attracted to honeydew from aphids.

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

Lacewing larva attacking a pest

PESTS ATTACKED
- aphids
- mites, thrips
- mealybugs
- caterpillars
- whiteflies
- insect eggs