Natural Enemies of Vegetable Insect Pests in Hawaii

Predators:
Lady Beetles

Coleoptera: Coccinellidae

WHAT TO LOOK FOR
Adult lady beetles may be red, orange or black with bright markings. Most found in vegetable crops and gardens are aphid and mealy bug predators.

APPEARANCE
• 4 distinct stages of development: egg, larva, pupa, and adult
• alligator-like larvae, some blue-black in color with orange spots
• adults are small, oval and dome shaped

VEGETABLE CROPS
Most, for example:
• tomatoes
• lettuce and leafy greens
• grain crops
• strawberries
• melons

Top: Lady beetle larva feeding on aphids  
Bottom: Lady-beetle eggs

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Adult lady beetles are attracted to a wide range of plants such as:
• sunflowers and daisies
• sunn hemp
• buckwheat
• haole koa
• fennel, dill, parsley
• dandelion

Include these flowers among your crops and gardens. Reducing use of insecticidal sprays may also promote ladybug populations.

PeSTS ATTACKED
• aphids
• whiteflies
• psyllids
• mites, mealybugs
• small insects
• insect eggs