

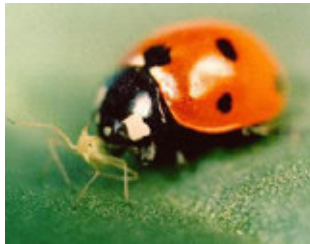
Identification of Beneficial Insects

Beneficial insects

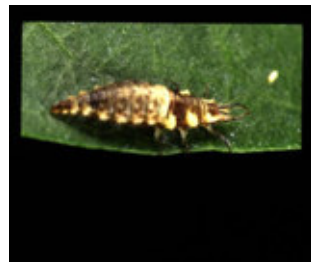
Not every insect you see flying or crawling on crops is a pest. Insects such as ladybirds, ground beetles, rove beetles, hoverflies, lacewings and parasitic wasps can all have a large impact on crop pests, particularly aphids, and can keep numbers below damaging levels given the chance.

Below are some of the insects that can be considered to be the growers friend, and their presence in a crop should be encouraged, and insecticide treatments held off for a few days to give them a chance to naturally control pests.

Ladybirds eat aphids as adults and in their grub stage.



Lacewings do not eat pests as adults, but their larvae are voracious predators of aphids, insect eggs and small caterpillars.



Hoverflies lay eggs near aphid colonies, and the grubs only eat aphids.



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There are many types of parasitic wasps that lay eggs within aphids. Attacked aphids turn a brown colour and appear swollen, and eventually a wasp emerges from the parasitised aphid 'mummy'.



Many beetles, such as ground beetles and rove beetles, will feed on a range of crop pests including aphids and small slugs.



Conserving these and other beneficial insects in crops through the judicious use of insecticides, allows a gradual build up of natural enemies from season to season which can exert significant levels of natural control of crop pests, removing the need for insecticide use in some cases.