

Summary of beneficial garden arthropods and their pest targets

Table 1. Summary of Predatory and Parasitic Arthropod Groups

Natural Enemy	Prey or Pest Targeted
Praying mantid	Flies, wasps, bees, caterpillars, moths, and butterflies.
Predatory bugs (true bugs, including damsel bugs, big-eyed bugs, minute pirate bugs, mirid bugs, stink bugs, assassin bugs, ambush bugs, etc.)	Mites, aphids, leafhoppers, thrips, caterpillars, mealybugs, beetles, scale insects, and insect eggs.
Predatory beetles (ground beetles, lady beetles, rove beetles, soldier beetles, etc.)	Mites, aphids, leafhoppers, mealybugs, thrips, insect eggs and small larvae, scale insects, and whiteflies.
Earwigs	Aphids, mites, thrips, leafhoppers, centipedes, millipedes, caterpillars, insect eggs, and whiteflies.
Lacewings and snakeflies	Mites, aphids, leafhoppers, whiteflies, thrips, mealybugs, caterpillars, insect eggs, and scale insects.
Predatory flies (hover flies, robber flies, bee flies, dance flies, long-legged flies, predatory midges)	Mites, aphids, scale insects, thrips, caterpillars, beetle larvae, flies, wasps, grasshoppers, and bees.
Predatory thrips	Thrips, mites, aphids, scale insects, and small caterpillars.
Ants	Aphids, mites, thrips, leafhoppers, centipedes, millipedes, caterpillars, insect eggs, and whiteflies.
Stinging wasps (paper wasps, yellowjackets, hornets)	Caterpillars, spiders, mantids, and beetles.
Predatory mites	Mites, scale insects, insect eggs, and nematodes.
Spiders (orb-weaver, crab, jumping, etc.)	Aphids, mites, caterpillars, flies, wasps, beetles, wasps, bees, grasshoppers, leafhoppers, whiteflies, thrips, mealybugs, moths, and butterflies.
Harvestmen (daddy-long-legs)	Small larvae, beetles, mites, aphids, earthworms, slugs, and spiders.
Centipedes	Spiders, cockroaches, beetles, caterpillars, earthworms, pill bugs, and earwigs.
Parasitic wasps (chalcids, encyrtids, braconids, ichneumonids, etc.)	Aphids, mealybugs, caterpillars, true bugs, beetles, grasshoppers, leafhoppers, spiders, whiteflies, and insect eggs.
Parasitic flies (tachinids, bee flies)	Aphids, mealybugs, caterpillars, true bugs, beetles, grasshoppers, leafhoppers, spiders, wasps, bees, whiteflies, and insect eggs.

* From Washington State University Extension Publication EM067E, Beneficial Insects, Spiders, and Other Mini-creatures in Your Garden: Who They Are and How to Get Them to Stay, 21 pp.