

A Bug's Life

Green lacewing

Family: Chrysopidae

Fun facts

- Mysterious white blobs observed at the end of threads
- Larvae (called aphid lions) are voracious predators of a wide variety of small insects like aphids and eggs
- Adults gather around lights at night
- Lacewings are sold commercially for biological control of insect pests in greenhouse crops

Identification

Egg: Laid on stalks, ~1/2" height, can be laid in small groups or singly

Larva: 1/2" long, alligator-like, tapered at head and abdomen, a pair of curved, sickle-shaped jaws extend from head

Adult: 3/4" long, pale green color, clear, highly veined wings, held over body when at rest, golden eyes

Management

- No management required
- Chemical treatment is not needed
- Beneficial insect because of pest control services primarily as larvae, adults feed on nectar, pollen, and sometimes small insects
- Exclude from home by sealing gaps, installing screens and closing doors
- Turn off lights at night



Photos: J. Green