

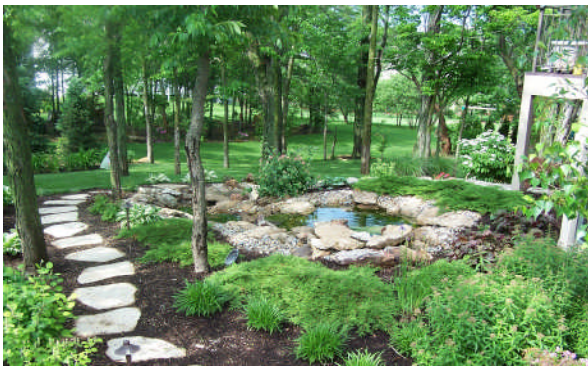
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**DOCTOR'S LAWN &
LANDSCAPE, INC.**

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DOCTOR'S LAWN & LANDSCAPE, INC.

**GUIDE TO
LACEWING AND
APHIDS**

Quality

Care

COMMITMENT

Experience

Skilled

Professionalism

Creativity

Value

Distinctive

Service

Personal

SATISFACTION

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LACEWINGS

Adult green Lacewings, including several green-colored species, are slender green insects with golden eyes, long antennae, and large transparent wings. They are about 5/8th of an inch in length. Brown Lacewings are similar in general body shape but are smaller and brown in color with wings that are less transparent because they are covered with small brown hairs. They prefer soft-bodied insects such as Aphids, Mealy Bugs, and also insect eggs. Because of the longevity of the adults (at least months in some species), voracious appetites, Lacewings have been known to consume an average of 41 Aphids during its lifetime. They also have a high reproductive capacity, one female can lay 460 eggs. They are useful biological control agents, therefore you don't need to spray to kill them. Some species have been utilized for this purpose, but limited work has been done. In Texas, Lacewings are being mass reared for control of citrus Mealy Bug.



BIOLOGY

Females lay non-staked eggs, usually singly or in small groups. There are three larval instars. The 1st instar is active in all species. It can run fast, moving the head from side to side as it moves. A white cocoon of double structure (outer loose thread, inner compact structure) is constructed in protected areas. Most groups appear to prefer aphids, but some may prefer coccid insects (especially Mealy Bugs). Spiders are considered one of the most important natural enemies of Lacewings.

DETECTION AND SURVEY

Adults are commonly attracted to lights. Adults and larvae can be found by beating or sweeping plants, especially oaks and pines and plants with high aphid infestations such as alfalfa. There are 58 North American species.

FEEDING

Larvae of both species feed heavily on aphids and whiteflies, as well as on moth eggs and small caterpillars. They are capable of consuming extremely large numbers of prey when availability is not a limiting factor.



APHIDS

Aphids commonly appear in the early spring in large colonies. Nymphs and adults can all be found feeding on the new growth at the ends of branches. We commonly find Aphids on Spirea, Viburnum, Tulip Trees, and even Oak Trees. Some Ants tend these colonies to collect the sweet honeydew that Aphids secrete and to protect them from attacking insects. If Ants are controlled, the number of Aphids usually drops, because beneficial insects, such as Lacewing and Syrphid Fly larvae, find and destroy them. When immediate control is necessary, we hose the plants off with water as needed.

