

## BENEFICIAL INSECTS - POLLINATORS & PREDATORS

### Parasitic Wasps

- Braconid, Chalcid, and Ichneumon wasps lay eggs on caterpillars – larvae live off the caterpillar (it dies) need a steady supply of moisture to attract – provide shallow feeders of water with pebbles or rocks to rest on while they are drinking



Yellow Ichneumon Wasp (Wikipedia)

### Green Lacewings

- widely used beneficial insect
- larvae - voracious predators of aphids, mealybugs, psyllids, thrips, mites, whiteflies, small caterpillars, leafhoppers, and insect eggs
- adult lacewings feed on nectar – important pollinators



Green Lacewing Adult (Wikipedia)



Green Lacewing Larva – also called Aphid Lion (Wikipedia)


### Ladybugs

- adults and larvae - predators of aphids and other soft-bodied garden pests
- provide ladybug houses for shelter and protection



Ladybug larva by Marcel Zurreck

## BENEFICIAL INSECTS - POLLINATORS & PREDATORS

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>Bees</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• important pollinators for all flowering plants and trees; essential to the fruit industry</li><li>• provide bee houses to attract</li></ul>   |   |
| <p><b>Butterflies and some Moths</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• adults feed on nectar – important pollinators</li></ul>   |   |
| <p><b>Feather-legged Flies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• same size as a housefly- smooth bodies, lacking hairs, eyes larger than most flies</li><li>• dark, opaque wings, distinctive fringe on back legs</li><li>• male abdomen – orange; female abdomen – black or partially orange with black tip</li><li>• parasite of other insects in the larval stage</li><li>• adults feed on nectar and pollinate flowers</li></ul> |  <p>Feather-legged Fly by Marvin Smith</p> |
| <p><b>Attracting Beneficial Insects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• provide nectar sources</li><li>• lacewings and ladybugs are attracted to alyssum, herbs from the dill and mint families, and flowers from the daisy family including cosmos and coreopsis</li><li>• also attracted to members of the carrot family; fennel, parsley &amp; lovage</li></ul>   |   |