

Chrysoperla carnea

Target pests

The larvae, often called « aphid lions, » have a voracious appetite and effectively target:

- Aphids
- Thrips
- Mites
- Scale insects
- Psyllids
- Lepidopteran eggs
- Small caterpillars
- Mealy bugs
- Other small pests

Target crops

Due to their adaptability and effectiveness, green lacewings are used in various crops, including:

- Vegetables
- Ornamental plants
- Cannabis
- Fruit trees

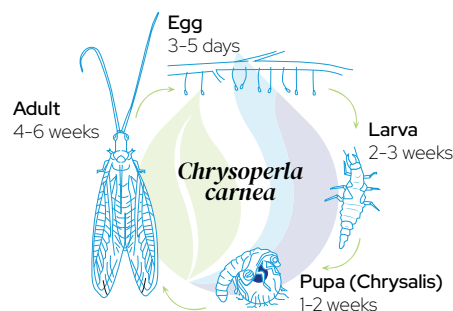
Chrysoperla carnea, commonly known as the green lacewing, is a versatile predatory insect widely used in biological control to manage various crop pests. The adult lacewing is easily recognized by its translucent, veined green wings, giving it a delicate appearance. Adults primarily feed on nectar, pollen, and honeydew but can also consume prey occasionally.

The larvae, however, are the true predators, capable of consuming a wide range of harmful insects. They capture their prey with powerful mandibles, injecting enzymes to digest the tissues, which facilitates nutrient absorption. A single larva can eliminate several hundred aphids during its development.

Green lacewings are particularly valued for integrated pest management (IPM) systems in both greenhouses and open fields, providing a natural, residue-free solution for crop protection.

Life cycle

- **Life Cycle:** Generally between 30 and 60 days depending on conditions.
- **Optimal Conditions:** Temperature of 20–30°C and relative humidity of 50–70%.
- **Reproduction:** The female lay several hundred eggs, individually or in small groups on leaves or stems, often near aphid colonies. The eggs are oval and white or pale green in color. At the end of the larval stage, the larva transforms into a pupa by spinning a silk cocoon. This is an inactive stage during which the lacewing develops into an adult inside the chrysalis.



Introduction rate

Eggs

Introduction	Quantity	Frequency	Duration
Preventive	20-50 / m ²	1-2 weeks	Until control
Curative	50-200 / 100m ² or more in cases of heavy infestation	1-2 weeks	Until control

Larva

Introduction	Quantity	Frequency	Duration
Preventive	5-10 / m ²	2 weeks	Until control
Curative	20-50 / 100m ²	2 weeks	Until control

Application

Eggs: Can be sprinkled on leaves or applied to parts of the plant where pest colonies are located.

Larvae: Fully developed larvae in buckwheat are ready to feed immediately. Simply distribute the buckwheat grains containing larvae near pest colonies. These larvae can be placed on leaves, near stems, or directly on infestation sites for rapid action.

Storage

Eggs: Preferably use immediately. Alternatively, they can be stored for 1–2 days in a dark place at room temperature with 50–60% relative humidity to prevent drying out.

If storage is necessary: Temperature: Between 8 and 10°C, for no more than one to two weeks. Beyond this, egg viability decreases, and hatching may be delayed or incomplete.

Larvae:

Temperature: Between 8 and 14°C, similar to eggs, to slow down development without harming them. It's best to use them quickly, as their predatory activity decreases over time.