

BENEFICIAL INSECTS

NATURE'S PEST CONTROL

KC METRO

08/10

2026 EDITION

The good bugs working for your lawn and garden — and how All Star treats around them.

RULE #1

Know before you spray

Most yard insects are harmless or working for you. Identify first; treat only the pest.

PEAK ACTIVITY

May – September

Predators and pollinators track the same season as the pests they eat.

J F M A M J J A S O N D

HOW WE PROTECT THEM

Targeted, not blanket

Crack-and-crevice and bait treatments, no spraying open blooms, timing around pollinators.

ATTRACT THEM

Flowers, water, no foggers

Native plants, a shallow water dish, mulch and leaf litter — and no broad-spectrum sprays.

1



LADY BEETLE

Coccinellidae · 1/4"

PREDATOR

- Adults & larvae eat aphids, scale and mites
- Larvae look like tiny black-and-orange alligators

Where: Gardens, shrubs, roses, vegetables

2



GREEN LACEWING

Chrysopidae · 1/2–3/4"

PREDATOR

- Delicate green wings; eggs on tiny stalks
- Larvae ("aphid lions") eat aphids, thrips, mealybugs

Where: Shrubs, gardens, porch lights at night

3



PRAYING MANTIS

Mantidae · 2–4"

PREDATOR

- Ambushes grasshoppers, moths, flies, beetles
- Foam egg case on stems — leave it for spring

Where: Gardens, shrubs, tall grass

4



DRAGONFLY

Odonata · 1–3"

MOSQUITO CONTROL

- Eats mosquitoes, gnats and flies by the hundreds
- Nymphs live in ponds and eat mosquito larvae

Where: Ponds, creeks, open yards

5



HOVER FLY

Syrphidae · 1/4–1/2"

POLLINATOR

- Bee mimic that hovers; one pair of wings; can't sting
- Larvae eat aphids; adults pollinate

Where: Flowers, vegetable gardens

6



GROUND BEETLE

Carabidae · 1/2–1"

PREDATOR

- Shiny black, fast, active at night
- Eats slugs, cutworms, root maggots and ants; harmless indoors

Where: Mulch, under stones, garden beds

7



PARASITIC WASP

Braconidae · Ichneumonidae · 1/8–1"

PREDATOR

- Lays eggs in caterpillars, aphids and hornworms
- Doesn't sting people — the white cocoons on a hornworm are its work

Where: Vegetable gardens, trees, shrubs

8



WHEEL BUG

Arilus cristatus · 1–1 1/2"

DON'T HANDLE

- Gray with a cog-like crest; hunts caterpillars, Japanese beetles, stink bugs
- Painful bite if handled — look, don't touch

Where: Trees, shrubs, gardens

9



SOLDIER BEETLE

Cantharidae · 1/2"

PREDATOR

- Orange & black, soft-bodied; on goldenrod and flowers
- Larvae eat grasshopper eggs, aphids and small larvae

Where: Flowers, meadows, gardens (Aug–Sep)

10



ROVE BEETLE

Staphylinidae · 1/4–1"

PREDATOR

- Slender with short wing covers; curls its tail up — harmless
- Eats fly maggots, mites and springtails in soil

Where: Mulch, compost, damp soil

11



GARDEN SPIDERS

Argiope · Araneidae · Varies

PREDATOR

- Trap mosquitoes, flies, moths and wasps in orb webs
- We manage spiders at the house — not in the garden

Where: Gardens, shrubs, porch rails

12



NATIVE BEES

Mason · sweat · leafcutter

POLLINATOR

- Most species nest in the ground — don't spray bare soil in spring
- Pollinate fruit trees and gardens; rarely sting

Where: Bare soil, wood holes, bee houses

★ WHY BENEFICIALS MATTER

- ★ Free, round-the-clock pest control in the yard and garden
- ★ Pollination for fruit trees, vegetables and flowers
- ★ Natural mosquito, fly and aphid control that never wears off
- ★ Fewer pesticides needed — and a lawn that stays in balance

✓ HOW ALL STAR TREATS AROUND THEM

- ✓ We identify first — no treating a bug we haven't named
- ✓ Crack-and-crevice, bait and spot treatments instead of blanket spraying
- ✓ No treating open blooms or bee-active plants
- ✓ Perimeter and mosquito work aimed at pest resting sites, timed away from peak pollinator hours

KC FIELD NOTE Multicolored Asian lady beetles — orange, variable spots, with a black "M" behind the head — are the ones that invade KC homes every October. Native lady beetles don't. Both are welcome in the garden; the invaders just need exclusion at the house (see Chart 09).



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