

## European Mantid

The **European mantid** (*Mantis religiosa*) is a generalist predator of insects that are actively moving on plants. In hemp, younger mantids present in late spring and early summer would likely find leafhoppers and small flies as typical prey. As the mantids mature larger insects are taken, such as grasshoppers, larger flies, bees, and beetles. Both green and brownish forms of this insect occur.

All mantids have a one year life cycle. The overwintering stage are that are in a case and attached to rocks, stems and other solid surfaces during late summer and early fall. In fields that are tilled or have vegetation removed at the end of the growing season, egg masses are destroyed. As a result populations of mantids surviving (as eggs) between seasons will be in non-cultivated areas, such as field edges.

Other mantids likely occur in hemp, although they have not yet been recorded. In southeastern Colorado a common species found along field edges of many crops is the **Carolina mantid** (*Stagmomantis carolinensis*).

Mantodea: Mantidae



**Adult (green form) of the European mantid**



**European mantid egg masses (oothecae)**