

Green Lacewings

The **goldeneyed green lacewing** (*Chrysopa oculata*) is has been regularly found in hemp fields, most often in association with aphid infestations. (Several other species of green lacewings in the genera *Chrysopa* and *Chrysoperla* are associated with other agricultural crops within the region and it is likely that future sampling will identify that some of these also occur within hemp.) Both the larvae and the adults of the goldeneyed green lacewing are generalist predators that feed on small insects such as aphids, leafhopper nymphs, plant bugs, and young larvae of caterpillars or beetles.



Adult of the goldeneyed green lacewing

The adult is an insect of fairly delicate features, with clear wings that are held roof-like over the pale green body when not in flight. Eggs are laid on leaves and the eggs are of unique appearance, produced at the tip of a stalk that is nearly ½ inch long. Eggs hatch in about 5 to 6 days and the larvae that emerge then crawl about the plant in search of prey. Green lacewing larvae are somewhat similar in general body form to larvae of lady beetles, but are distinguished by having long, curved mouthparts that project from the head and an abdomen that becomes more pointed at the end. The lacewing larva will feed and develop over the course of 2 to 3 weeks, then settle in some protected site on the plant where it will spin a cocoon of oval form, and then pupate within the cocoon. In summer, an adult will emerge about a month later and produce another generation; lacewings developing late in the year will remain within the cocoon through the winter.

Neuroptera: Chrysopidae



Egg of a green lacewing



Green lacewing larva. Photograph courtesy of Harold Larsen, Colorado State University.