

## Lady Bugs



A lady bug can eat up to 5,000 insects in their lifetime. They are a well known hero in a farmer's field. They lay hundreds of eggs in a

colony of aphids and other plant eating insects and when the lady bug larvae hatch, they immediately begin feasting on those pesky bugs.



## Praying Mantis



A master garden predator, *Mantis religiosa*, is generally considered a beneficial insect. There are over 2,000 different species of praying mantis worldwide and there are about 20 species in

North America. They are a carnivorous insect that loves to hunt crickets, grasshoppers, beetles, mites and moths. But honestly, they will eat just about anything they can catch.



## Earth Worms



Earth worms are an essential part of a healthy garden. They help break down dead and decaying organic matter and turn it into nutrient dense soil that helps plants thrive. Their tunnels also help aerate the soil.

## Garden Wren



Garden Wrens feed on a wide variety of insects, including beetles, grasshoppers, crickets, caterpillars, moths, flies, and many others. They also eat many spiders, plus some millipedes and snails. They like to nest in tree hollows, crevices, and nest boxes.

## Garter Snake

Garter snakes are harmless to humans and feed on pesky critters that like to eat garden crops. They typically eat slugs, small insects, and small rodents. Native to North America, they usually get to be about 2-3 feet long, and have a yellow, red or white strip along their sides and back.



## Aphids



Aphids are small sap-sucking insects. They have a soft body and can be light green, pink, red or black. They like to congregate in groups on the underside of tender new plant leaves. They suck the sap and juices from plants. If their populations grow out of control, they can cause the plant's leaves to turn yellow and drop off.