# **CHECK THE NET** THE CEREAL



#### FIELD HEROES

### Green lacewing

ID: Adults are green with wing veins that look like netting. Some have gold eyes.

Super power: Beneficial predator of aphids, thrips, mites, and leafhopper eggs.

larva

Wheat Midge

Macroglenes penetrans

Aphids

ID: 1 to 2 mm parasitic wasp Super power: Beneficial parasitoid of wheat midge.

FIELD HEROES

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#### HEROES

### Lady beetle

ID: Larvae are alligator-like in shape; black with white, yellow, red or orange markings.

Super power: Beneficial predator of aphids, thrips, mites and other small insects.



larva

#### FIELD IFROFS

### **Ground beetle**

**ID:** Head at eyes narrower than section behind head. Front wings may have striations or pits. Look for under debris on soil.

Super power: Beneficial predator of cutworms, other caterpillars and grasshopper eggs.

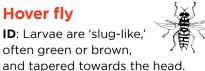
## Tetrastichus julis

**ID:** 3 mm parasitic wasp Super power: Beneficial parasitoid of cereal leaf beetle.

**Hover fly** 

ID: Larvae are 'slug-like,

often green or brown,



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Super power: Beneficial predator of aphids and small caterpillars.

FIELD

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200

larva

HEROES

**THINK BENEFICIALS BEFORE YOU SPRAY** 

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- Scout fields weekly in season to check for the number of insects and species present in your crop.
- Get a sweep-net to capture elusive insects that can't be monitored any other way.
- •Sweep a minimum of five locations in fields less than 100 acres; sweep 10 locations in fields greater than 100 acres.
- •Swing the net from side to side through a dry crop canopy in a full 180-degree arc with the top of the net at crop height.
- Empty the net into a plastic bag or bottle for closer examination.
- **Don't freak out** a sweep-net can yield hundreds of insects, especially in a flowering crop on a hot day.
- Evaluate what's in your net are they pollinators, insect predators, parasitoids or insect pests?
- •Know who's working for you you don't have to identify everything in your net but get to know your most common beneficial insects so that you don't confuse them with damaging insect pests.
- Make an informed decision sweep-net sampling can help you decide to spray right away or give you information that suggests more scouting is needed. In some cases, counting insects will tell you if a spray is economical; in other cases, you'll also need to estimate percent defoliation to determine if a spray is warranted.

### Learn more about the Cereal Avengers at fieldheroes.ca

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