

# CHECK THE NET

## for THE CEREAL AVENGERS

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

FIELD  
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### 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

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### 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.

FIELD  
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### *Macroglanes penetrans*



**ID:** 1 to 2 mm parasitic wasp

**Super power:** Beneficial parasitoid of wheat midge.

Wheat Midge

Aphids

### *Tetrastichus julis*



**ID:** 3 mm parasitic wasp

**Super power:** Beneficial parasitoid of cereal leaf beetle.

FIELD  
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### Hover fly



**ID:** Larvae are 'slug-like,' often green or brown, and tapered towards the head.

**Super power:** Beneficial predator of aphids and small caterpillars.



larva

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THINK BENEFICIALS  
BEFORE YOU SPRAY

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## Scouting tips:

- **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](http://fieldheroes.ca)



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