

# CHECK THE NET

*for*  
**THE OILSEED  
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

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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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## Bee



**ID:** Honey bees have a distinctive barrel-shaped body; they are generally golden yellow with brown bands and covered in small hairs.

**Super power:** Adults of many species of honey bees and wild bees pollinate canola, sunflowers and other oilseed crops.

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## Damsel bugs



**ID:** Long and slender, often light brown, with enlarged front legs.

**Super power:** Kills and sucks fluid out of caterpillars, aphids and other insects.

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## Diadegma insularis



**ID:** Small (6 mm) ichneumonid wasp with reddish-brown legs and abdomen.

**Super power:** Beneficial parasitoid of diamondback moth.

Aphids

## Rove beetle



**ID:** Adults are slender with short wings; 3-6 segments of the abdomen may not be covered by the wings. Look for under debris on soil.

**Super power:** Beneficial predator of root maggot eggs and larvae; larvae parasitize root maggot pupae.

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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 Oilseed Avengers at [fieldheroes.ca](http://fieldheroes.ca)



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