

## LACEWINGS-*Chrysoperla rufilabris*

The green lacewing or *Chrysoperla rufilabris* is a truly voracious predator, attacking almost any soft-bodied insect that crosses its path. Although it is best known for attacking aphids, it also feeds upon small larvae insect eggs, mites, immature whitefly, etc. The lacewing can be found on almost any plant and the eggs can easily be identified as they are oval, pale green in color. The adults are delicate light green and are about 3/4 of an inch long.

The lacewings are shipped to you as eggs, and will probably be hatching, or very close to hatching, by the time you receive them. We mix the lacewing eggs with corn cob grit. The corn cob grit serves two functions: firstly, when the lacewings hatch, they are very hungry! (In fact they are so hungry that they often resort to cannibalism if there is no other food source available). The corn cob grit provides separation so they are not as apt to eat each other. The second reason is that since they are so small, it is easier to distribute them in your garden if they are in a carrier. A thimble would hold about 10,000 lacewing eggs!

As soon as you receive your lacewings, sprinkle them on or around your plants. If you are putting them in trees, you can place small amounts in a paper drinking cup and staple the cup to a leaf. The lacewing will crawl out and up into the tree or plant. The larvae will feed from 1 to 3 weeks, and then they will roll up into white pupae and emerge as an adult in about 1 week ready to lay eggs! When looking for the newly hatched lacewing larvae, remember that they are quite small, about the size of the pale green or grey egg from which they came, so you may have difficulty seeing them.

\_\_\_\_\_ #5030...1,000 Larvae/Eggs

\_\_\_\_\_ #5031...3,000 (3 bi-weekly shipments of 1,000)

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