



# Integrated Pest Control Solutions

County of San Diego, Department of Agriculture, Weights & Measures  
Integrated Pest Control Program  
Providing Safe and Effective Pest Management using the least toxic methods  
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## **Good Bugs - Beneficial Insects of San Diego County**

There are many types of “good bugs” commonly found in the garden or landscape. In Integrated Pest Management (IPM) we refer to “good bugs” as “natural enemies” or “beneficial organisms”. Natural enemies can include insects, mites, pathogens, and vertebrates like birds and lizards. These natural enemies can kill or reduce pest populations by feeding directly on the pest, parasitizing the pest, or infecting the pest with a pathogen.

### **Common Beneficial Insects found in San Diego County**



#### **Decollate Snails**

*Characteristics:* Decollate Snail is a predator of local Slugs and Brown Garden Snails. Decollate snails are active mostly at night and during overcast or rainy weather. During the day they hide in leaf litter on the ground and in the top 1-inch of soil.

*Facts:* Mature females can lay about 200 eggs per year and up to 500 eggs during their lifetime.



#### **Praying Mantis**

*Characteristics:* Being a carnivorous insect, the praying mantis feeds primarily on other insects such as Fruit Flies, Crickets, Beetles, and Moths. Praying mantis can be found in all parts of the world with mild winters and sufficient vegetation. Praying mantis will spend most of their time in a garden, forest or other vegetation area.

*Facts:* Because of their voracious appetite for insects, praying mantids are sometimes considered a friend to farmers and gardeners



#### **Jerusalem Cricket (Potato Bug)**

*Characteristics:* Potato bugs feed on dead roots, decaying plant matter, and other organic materials. Despite their name, potato bugs don't give any preference to gorging on potatoes. They are often found under plant leaves, in flower beds, and amongst decaying plants,

*Facts:* They are not poisonous or aggressive, but they can bite.



#### **Green Lacewing**

*Characteristics:* Green Lacewing Larvae are predators to various garden insects and use their sharp mouthparts to impale prey and feed on the body contents. They can be found in crops, gardens, landscapes, and wildlands

*Facts:* At least 37 species of green lacewings occur in California



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## IPM to attract Beneficial Insects to your

- Implement an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) plan focused on attracting beneficial insects: prioritize habitat creation, provide food and shelter, and minimize pesticide use.
- Place blooming flowers in sunshine and in locations with minimal wind.
- Maintain diversity in varieties, height, color and blooming period of plants.
- Provide large, concentrated plantings of flowering plants because many beneficial insects also feed on plant nectar.

Want to learn more about Beneficial Insects?



[UC IPM & Beneficial Insects](#)



[California Agriculture – Beneficial Insects](#)

AWM's Integrated Pest Control (IPC) Program contributes to a safe and healthy work environment by providing safe and effective structural pest control at County facilities. IPC also conducts various weeds control activities to preserve road visibility and clearance, reduce fire danger, enhance drainage to prevent flooding, and help protect the region's biodiversity.

FY 24/25		Quarter 1		Quarter 2		Quarter 3		Quarter 4	
Type of Pesticide		Quantity	Treatment Description	Quantity	Treatment Description	Quantity	Treatment Description	Quantity	Treatment Description
Herbicides									
	Dry	2.5 lbs.	468	64.5 lbs.	171	0 lbs.	716		
	Liquid	412 gallons	acres	103 gallons	acres	355 gallons	acres		
Insecticides									
	Dry	16 lbs.	485	4.6 lbs.	211	3.4 lbs.	151		
	Liquid	6 gallons	applications	4.5 gallons	applications	4.6 gallons	applications		
Rodenticide									
	Dry	236 lbs.	600 stations	154 lbs.	620 stations	105 lbs.	630 stations		
Non-Chemical									
	Traps	3,405	160 facilities	2,585	124 facilities	2,175	208 facilities		

Table 1. Amount of pesticides applied by IPC per quarter.