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Predators and Parasites in the Garden

Today on Gardening in a Minute: predators and parasites in the garden.

Gardeners don't like finding pest insects in their gardens. The good news is that specific types of beneficial insects can help keep them in check.

Predatory insects are beneficial because they feed directly on aphids and other pest insects. Common predatory insects include lacewings, lady beetles, and praying mantids.

Parasites are another type of beneficial insect. Most parasites are wasps or flies. They lay eggs either in or on the body of their specific host insects.

For example, larra wasps lay their eggs on the bodies of mole crickets, which are known to be serious turfgrass pests. As larvae develop, they consumes their hosts.

So if you choose to use pesticides, be sure to do so responsibly. You don't want to cause these beneficial insects any harm.

For more information about this and many other gardening topics, contact your county Extension office or visit Gardening in a Minute dot com.

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