



Natural Enemies of Crop Pests in Hawai'i



Hover Flies (predators)

What to look for

Also known as syrphid flies or sweat-bees, hover flies are common and abundant. Adult hover flies are important pollinators. Larvae are highly effective aphid predators, especially in gardens and small plots. Look for them on the underside of crop leaves and near aphid infestations.



Hover fly larva feeding on aphids

Appearance

Adults resemble small bees or wasps, with black and yellow striping on the abdomen.

Larvae maggots are green to grayish and "slug-like," but move fast when attacking aphids!

Crops protected

tomatoes
sweet corn
cole crops
broccoli
and others attacked by aphids

Pests attacked

aphids
leafhoppers
mealybugs
thrips
small caterpillars

Natural Enemies of Crop Pests in Hawai'i



Hover fly on a garden flower



Hover Flies

Hover fly adults are attracted to all flowering plants that provide pollen and nectar, such as small-flowered herbs (wild mustard, coriander, dill, fennel), sunflowers, marigolds, and daisies, sunn hemp, and buckwheat. Intercrop these plants with vegetables or plant them nearby as border strips. If they occur as weeds, allow them to grow among your crop plants.

Adult Allograpta exotica, a species of hover fly in Hawai'i

Predators

Predators are beneficial insects that attack, kill, or consume a wide variety of common pests. Males, females, immatures, and adults may all be predatory. Predators include lacewings, flies, spiders, beetles, true bugs, and predatory mites.



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