

# Beneficial Species Profile



**Photos credit:** Sarah Zuehlke, University of Nebraska--Lincoln

**Common Name:** Carolina Mantis

**Scientific Name:** *Stagmomantis carolina*

**Order and Family:** Mantodea, Mantidae

**Size and Appearance:**

	Length (mm)	Appearance
<b>Egg</b>		Females lay a protective frothy egg case, called an ootheca, on twigs or stems in the fall. Egg case hardens to a small brown or tan, long and narrow pouch containing 30 – 40 eggs. One generation a year.
<b>Larva/Nymph</b>	6mm	Nymphs are similar to adults, just smaller, and do not have wings. Nymphs overwinter in the egg case and hatch in the Spring.
<b>Adult</b>	48 – 60mm	Green or brownish grey in color with long thin thorax. Females have very short wings and wide abdomens. Mantids have specialized raptorial forelegs to catch prey. Head can turn 180 degrees. Wings have a black blotch on the outer covering, males can fly.
<b>Pupa (if applicable)</b>		

**Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.):** Chewing

**Host/s:** The Carolina mantis is a predator and will eat many kinds of small insects including flies, moths, butterflies, wasps, bees, caterpillars, and true bugs. The Carolina mantis lives on low brush, flowers, and shrubs.

**Description of Benefits (predator, parasitoid, pollinator, etc.):** Praying mantids are predators that can help control pest insects and are considered a beneficial insect. They will eat a wide range of small insects including pests. Praying mantids can be used as biological controls or natural predators in gardens.

**References:**

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