

Beneficial Species Profile



Photo credit: Erin Bauer, University of Nebraska--Lincoln

Common Name: Chinese Mantid

Scientific Name: *Tenodera sinensis*

Order and Family: Mantodea: Mantidae

Size and Appearance: A large 65-85 mm in length, Chinese mantids have an extremely elongated thorax, large wings and raptorial (grasping) front legs, giving them their “praying” appearance. They have a triangular shaped and free swiveling head. They can be green or brown in color.

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg	Ootheca (egg mass)	Brown masses with a hardened, protective exterior
Larva/Nymph	2-65 mm	Incomplete metamorphosis, smaller instars that look similar to the adult (with wings becoming fully developed at the adult stage)
Adult	65-85 mm	Slender, elongated prothorax, tan or green in color. Raptorial front legs giving it a “praying” appearance.
Pupa (if applicable)	n/a	Incomplete Metamorphosis (no pupae)

Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.): Chewing mouthparts on both immature and adult.

Host/s: The Chinese mantis is an introduced species and prefers to live in backyards and garden-type habitats on shrubbery and flowers.

Description of Benefits (predator, parasitoid, pollinator, etc.): Mantids are predatory and use their grasping front legs to capture other insects, particularly ones that eat foliage in a garden-type setting

References:

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