

common green lacewing

Chrysoperla carnea

Kingdom:	Animalia
Division/Phylum:	Arthropoda
Class:	Insecta
Order:	Neuroptera
Family:	Chrysopidae

ILLINOIS STATUS

common, native



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adult

FEATURES

The common green lacewing is about one-fourth to five-eighths inch in length. Its soft body is green. The four wings are clear but have green veins. The front and hind wings are similar in shape and appearance and are held over the back when at rest. The wings and antennae are longer than the body. The eyes are gold or copper.

BEHAVIORS

The common green lacewing may be found statewide in Illinois. It lives on grasses, shrubs and other plants in open areas. It may give off an unpleasant odor when disturbed. Both the adults and larvae eat aphids. The life cycle of this insect includes egg, larva, pupa and adult stages. The egg is deposited at the tip of a thin stalk that keeps it away from the surface of the plant. The larva has long, curved, bladelike jaws.

ILLINOIS RANGE



Aquatic Habitats

wet prairies and fens

Woodland Habitats

none

Prairie and Edge Habitats

black soil prairie; dolomite prairie; edge; gravel prairie; hill prairie; sand prairie; shrub prairie