

## OSU MG Study Group Diagnostic Show-and-Tell Highlights: June 4, 2018

Prepared and photographed (except where noted) by Elizabeth Price

Join our friendly OSU MG Study Group on the first Monday of each month from 1 to 3 pm for Diagnostic Show-and-Tell. Have fun while learning! We explore bugs, diseases and more. Below are a few samples of what MGs brought to our last session. For more information contact Elizabeth Price: [llgmicroeap@mindspring.com](mailto:llgmicroeap@mindspring.com)

### Leafroller pupa on dogwood shrub: pest

Jacki brought in a bunch of dogwood leaves with ½" moth pupae rolled up inside. Initially we thought we had caught them in the process of pupating, as the larvae seemed only partially enclosed, but this is just how fully pupated leafrollers look. As larvae, they wrap themselves in one or more leaves and tie it all together with silk. They feed on leaves or emerging flowers or fruit from within the leaf.

Depending on the species, they overwinter as eggs on twigs or as immature larvae beneath bark. Though rarely troublesome enough to warrant chemical intervention, they can be damaging to fruit. If necessary, remove rolled leaves by hand.

For more information: [PNW Insect Management Handbook](#)



Leafrollers wrap themselves in leaves.

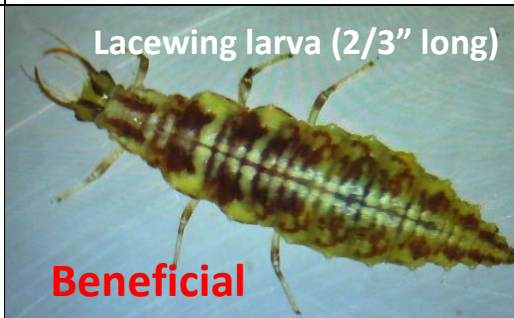
### Lacewing larva on Judy's thumb (Neuroptera order): beneficial

This lacewing larva gave Judy's thumb a painful love bite; she returned the favor by plopping him into a Petri dish and bringing him to study group (though she returned the critter to her backyard). The larvae's catclaw-like mandibles are unique multipurpose tools with which they capture and pierce prey. But lacewing larvae have a liquid diet. Through canals that are open only when the mandibles are closed, they inject enzymes into pierced prey and siphon out predigested meals. Often called aphidlions in honor of their favorite prey, they feed on a variety of soft-bodied insects, including scale, mealybugs, mites and even leafroller larvae!

Lacewings are also known for the female's unique way of keeping their eggs out of harm's way. The female constructs slender, ethereal-looking stalks (¼-½" tall) and crowns each one with a single egg.

Aphidlions are so effective at controlling pests, you can purchase eggs by the thousands to rear into larvae and release.

For more information: [University of Wisconsin Extension](#)



*Lacewing larvae's unique mouthparts capture, pierce, inject & siphon.*

### Blessed milkthistle (*Silybum marianum*):

#### Bad thing in a good packet

Marge was surprised to see blessed milkthistle grow from what she thought was an echinacea seed. This robust, very spiny plant from the Mediterranean region has fleshy mottled leaves. An introduced ornamental that has become invasive in certain areas, it is widespread in parts of southwestern Oregon but its distribution is more limited in the Willamette Valley. Growing as either a biennial or annual, it can become as tall as six feet and develops typical purple thistle flowers 3-4 inches wide. Seeds remain in the soil for many years; so if you encounter this weed, be sure to remove flowers before they go to seed.

It is of particular concern in agricultural areas, as it is deadly to livestock.

For more information: [Oregon Dept. of Agriculture](#)



**Weed that is poisonous to livestock**