Friend and Foe!

Parasitoid Wasps

There are many species of parasitoid wasps, some of which are FRIENDS and some of which are FOES.

Many are so tiny you may not even notice them!

ONE OF OUR FRIENDS -APHIDIUS WASP

A female wasp will lay her egg in an aphid nymph. The wasp larva consumes the insides of



Aphid Mummies

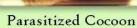
the aphid as it matures, leaving a "mummy."

Aphidius wasps can smell the footprint of lady beetles and will not lay their eggs on aphids (very wisely) if they are close by! You can encourage these wasps to your garden with nectar and pollen rich plants such as sweet alyssum, thyme and yarrow. And ... by providing food for their larvae ... leave those aphids alone!

FOE - MONODONTOMERUS (a genus of the Chalcid wasp)

Lays its eggs in the larvae of mason bee nests, which is why it is very important to bring your mason bee boxes into your me at the beginning of lune or

home at the beginning of June or bag them in a mesh bag. Do this very



carefully as you do not want to knock the bee larvae

off their pollen loaf!

Parasitic Wasps

Images: Braconid (Aphidiinae) Wasp — Alan D Mansion, Wiki Commons

All other images by Elaine Sedgman

Sources: Walliser, J., Good Bug, Bad Bug, 2011

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Pinkington, G. Monodontomerus Wasp's Life Cycle https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_bwhBipHktl



Parasitized Nesting Tunnel