

**Predatory wasp:** Good bug. It collects other insects as food for developing wasp larvae. Has the ability to sting but generally is not aggressive and will only sting if provoked.

Insect family name: **Dolichopodidae**. Good bugs. These are the long-legged flies that make up the large family of true flies. They are predators of small insects.

**Honeybees:** Good bugs. Pollinators. They have the ability to sting but generally are not aggressive and will only sting if provoked. Honeybees can only sting one time, and the bee dies.

Insect family name: **Halictidae** (a family of small bees) and **bumblebee**: Good bugs. Both are efficient pollinators. Both have the ability to sting but generally are not aggressive and will only sting if provoked.



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# GOOD BUG, BAD BUG

Do you know whether these insects commonly seen in Wyoming are beneficial or not?

By Jeff Edwards

## Good sources of information about insects

- *A Field Guide to Insects*, by Donald J. Borror and Richard White
- BugGuide.net, at [www.bugguide.net](http://www.bugguide.net)



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**Yellow jacket:** Good or bad? It depends. Yellow jackets are efficient predators of other insects to feed to their young. They will build nests in public places and can be aggressive feeders on sugary and fatty foodstuffs (i.e., soda, overripe fruit, doughnuts, meat). They will sting; unlike honeybees, their stingers are multiple-use, and they are not afraid to use them.

**Thread-waisted wasp and ant:** Thread-waisted wasp is a good bug. It collects other insects as food for developing wasp larvae and has the ability to sting but generally is not aggressive and will only sting if provoked. Ants – good or bad? Depends on situation and species. Some are highly efficient predators of other insects. Some can be household nuisances. Most species found in Wyoming will bite but do not sting.

**Lady bird beetle and lygus bug:** Lady bird beetle is good; lygus bug is bad. Lady bird beetles, commonly known as ladybugs, are efficient predators of aphids and other soft-bodied insects and also feed on pollen and plant nectar. They can also pollinate flowers. Lygus bugs are bad bugs. They feed on plants, particularly seed pods (lygus bugs can be devastating to the alfalfa seed and other seed production industries); they also feed on small fruit such as strawberries and raspberries and cause deformed fruit.

Jeff Edwards is a University of Wyoming Cooperative Extension Service educator serving Goshen, Laramie, and Platte counties. He can be contacted at (307) 532-2436 or [jedward4@uwyo.edu](mailto:jedward4@uwyo.edu).