



Around this time of year in our community, it is hard not to notice bugs. While fishflies are viewed as a nuisance by many, in greenhouse horticulture insects play a crucial role in keeping our plants healthy. Various Biological Control Agents (BCAs), such as ladybugs, predatory mites, and beneficial microbes are a critical part of the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach used by greenhouse growers.

The pest challenges faced by greenhouse growers are often different than their field counterparts. The enclosed greenhouse environment means that small pest issues can escalate quickly. Pest scouting is an important element of greenhouse IPM programs, where an individual (or sometimes a robot!) checks plants for early signs of insects or disease. Early detection of pests means that BCAs can be deployed

directly to where their "food" is located, making for healthier plants, better fruit, and reduced wastage. Ontario greenhouse vegetable growers are world leaders in their use of BCAs - they are used in every greenhouse - much to the envy of many competitive regions and countries. This is just another way that Ontario greenhouse growers use innovation to provide safe and nutritious veggies for you and your family.

IPM is a proactive method for growers to prevent, manage, and control pests and it encourages innovation to solve pest issues in novel ways. IPM programs are reducing risks and concerns posed by conventional pesticides while improving fruit quality, food and workplace safety all while safeguarding the environment. The team at OGVG supports growers by disseminating information on the latest techniques

and tools for improving IPM practices and outcomes.

For more information on IPM and how we grow, visit: <https://www.ogvg.com/how-we-grow>



THE ADVENTURES OF Lady Bug

- BIOSECURITY
- WORKFLOW DESIGN
- PEST SCOUTING

Our growers practice Integrated Pest Management (IPM) which means that many tools (like biosecurity, workflow design and pest scouting) are used together to control pests in a greenhouse — not just pesticides.

Growers will use good bugs (like me!) to eat bad bugs to keep the plants healthy and the fruit free from damage.

Local Sector Spotlight

IPM and Bio-Security



Climate change has had impacts on the North American bumble bee. Keep them in mind when planting your garden, and help make our community a welcome place for bees and pollinators.

The Bumblebee (*Bombus* spp.) is one of North America's most well-known pollinators and Ontario greenhouse vegetable growers utilize these hardworking insects to help pollinate tomato and pepper plants in greenhouse farms. Tomatoes and peppers are self-pollinating, but bee pollination improves the size and number of fruits. Bumblebees are incredibly efficient and will work from sunrise to sunset each day. In fact, a single bumblebee can pollinate roughly 150 kilograms of tomatoes, visit a thousand flowers, and can travel up to ten kilometres away from its hive and collect and transport sixty per cent of its body weight in pollen. In their search for pollen to bring back to the hive, they are instrumental in the process of turning each flower into a beautiful, juicy tomato!

Bumblebee hives are placed throughout the greenhouse, the bees live within the plants and work alongside our teams every day. Bumblebees are docile and neither territorial nor aggressive, unlike honeybees or mason bees. As a matter of fact, honeybees and mason bees get lost in confined spaces and have difficulty

navigating a greenhouse successfully. Our growers rely on several local suppliers who provide these invaluable pollinators to our farms.



CHOOSE ANNUALS & PERENNIALS THAT ATTRACT POLLINATORS



*Denotes a bulb or a tuber

BINGO Update: We would like to thank everyone who participated in our first OGVG Bingo Game! Congratulations to our last chance draw winner: Dawn Jarvis

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