Praying Mantis - *Tenodera aridifolia sinensis*

1 egg case will contain many baby Praying Mantis with an average of about 200, although the outcome is completely up to Nature. Praying Mantis are a general garden predator and will eat what they can catch, both good and bad bugs. Mantis stake out a territory and hunt by stealth, catching anything that is small enough to eat that comes into their territory. Mantis are cannibalistic, so as soon as they hatch they begin to disperse quickly. Mantis are well camouflaged and very secretive so it is difficult to find them among your plants. Later in the season when they have grown and sit in their territories you may be lucky enough to spot one. These insects do not bite people, damage plants, or spread disease. There is only one generation per season.

Release Outdoors

1. Place the egg case outside once received. The egg case should be placed in the garden (2 to 5 feet above the ground) in a sheltered area such as a shrub or plant, not directly in sunlight but where it will receive some moisture from regular watering of plants, the rain or morning dew.
2. For easy hanging, remove the information card and hang the egg case with the netting.
3. BE PATIENT. The egg case will hatch when it is ready to hatch, it can take 1 – 8 weeks. When the egg case hatches, it only takes 1 – 2 hours for many baby Mantis to emerge and disperse. The egg case does not change.

Note: Egg cases naturally overwinter in Canada.

Release Indoors

Option A : You will need: A container, it can be an old aquarium or plastic jar; netting to cover the container opening; string or rubber band; a pin; twig and misting bottle.

1. Cut a piece of netting to fit over the opening of your container/jar.
2. Attach the egg case to the twig by either pinning the open end of the mesh tube the egg case is shipped in or by pinning the top part of the egg case on to the twig.
3. Put netting over the opening of the jar and secure with rubber band or string.
4. Place container in a warm spot, not directly in the sun.
5. **Mist daily**, this is very important! You do not want your egg case to dry out.
6. Wait patiently. Check regularly
7. Once hatched, enjoy the event, and then let the Mantis go in you garden. The Mantis can be kept as insect pets as long as you can supply an ongoing food source for them.

NOTE – you can use a brown paper bag (lunch bag size) as a hatching chamber. View our YouTube video for instructions. Search NIC Praying Mantis on You Tube.

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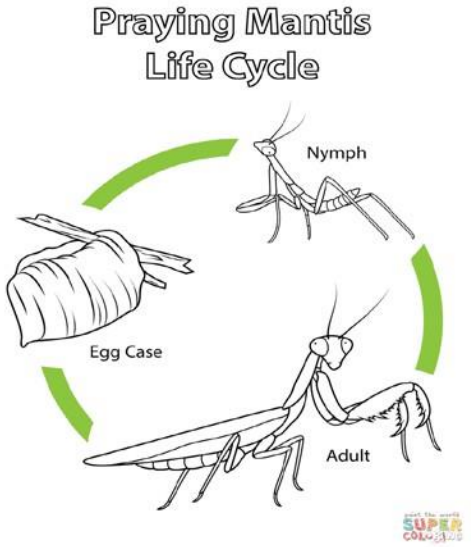
Life Cycle

EGGS: Mantis eggs are in an egg case attached to low weeds, shrubs etc. The egg case is laid as a frothy container that quickly hardens and contains many baby Praying Mantis. As with most insects many hatch but few survive.



NYMPHS: When baby Mantis first emerge from the egg case they are very small (0.5cm). As they dry, their arms and legs unravel and once on their feet they sit to complete drying for a short time. When drying is complete the Mantis quickly disperses before they become food for their brothers and sisters. An immature Mantis looks just like an adult Mantis except much smaller in size.

ADULTS: Both males and females can fly, males are better flyers because they are lighter and use this ability to seek females for breeding. In late summer the Mantis mate, the smaller males are sometimes killed by the female during mating. His body is the necessary food source for egg development. The females can lay from 1 to 4 egg cases before the season ends. Praying Mantis overwinters as an egg case

Did you Know: Where did our Praying Mantis come from? At around 1896 this species was accidentally introduced by a nurseryman at Mt. Airy near Philadelphia, PA. This species can be now found throughout North America. It is not considered invasive.

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