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The Palisade Insectary & Biological Pest Control Little Bugs Making a Big Difference



The Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA) took an innovative approach to biological pest control over 60 years ago and established the Palisade Insectary.

To this day, the Insectary is among only a handful of programs across the U.S. that provides farmers, ranchers and resource managers with dozens of species of beneficial insects and mites as tools for use in Integrated Pest Management (IPM) programs.

The CDA is committed to IPM to combat weeds and insect pests in an economical and environmentally sound way, and as part of that commitment the Insectary leads the way in biological pest control.



The Insectary, located in Palisade, Colorado, produces and releases about 30 different species of biological control agents. These agents are used against insect pests such as the alfalfa weevil and cereal leaf beetle, or weeds such as leafy spurge, field bindweed, purple loosestrife, musk thistle, diffuse knapweed, and most recently the water-using invasive tree, tamarisk. The Insectary has greenhouses and insect rearing rooms as well as facilities for storage and shipping of biocontrol agents.

Insectary staff grows plants, such as the toadflaxes, with their beautiful snapdragon-like flowers, and feed them to insects, such as the toadflax weevil. Don't feel sorry for the toadflaxes though, they are unpalatable to livestock and wildlife and degrade and devalue rangelands. Fortunately the little black weevils have brought infestations of Dalmatian toadflax under control in western Colorado.



The Insectary started as a local insect rearing facility but has expanded to become an important state and region-wide biocontrol center dedicated to producing and releasing biocontrol agents but also to formulating recommendations and procedures for effective use of biological control in IPM programs.

For more on the Palisade Insectary, visit [our website](#) or call (866) 324-2963.