



An adult praying mantis is a large insect that hunts and eats other insects.	A nymph is a baby praying mantis. It is smaller than the adult and does not have wings.	An egg case is filled with eggs in the fall. The nymphs hatch from the egg case in the spring.	Like all insects, the praying mantis has six legs, a head, an abdomen and two antennas.

The praying mantis is closely related to these insects: walking stick, cricket, grasshopper and cockroach.	Praying mantises are helpful in our gardens and farms because they eat insects that eat our plants.	Some praying mantises hunt and eat mice and small birds.	Praying mantises hunt and attack so quickly that you cannot see them move.