

The Common Green Darner should be named Delaware's official dragonfly because it benefits both the environment and humans and is well-suited to Delaware's habitat and climate. This beautiful creature should be the proud symbol of Delaware, highlighting the welcoming nature of our state.

To begin, according to "*treehugger.com*" and "*entomology.umn.edu*" Common Green Darners are skilled predators that consume large numbers of harmful insects like flies, gnats, and mosquitoes- sometimes over 100 per day. This information supports the claim because it helps reduce the spread of diseases such as West Nile virus, malaria, and Zika. Their role as predators also helps maintain a balanced ecosystem. In addition, their speed and excellent vision allow them to capture prey mid-air and avoid predators, making them highly effective in their environment. Common Green Darners also play a crucial role in the food web. For example, they serve as a food source for birds, frogs, fish, and spiders, all of which contribute positively to the environment. By supporting these species, the Common Green Darner will further help maintain ecological balance.

Additionally, another reason the Common Green Darner should be named the state dragonfly is because they are perfectly suited for Delaware's climate. According to *nps.gov*, "Dragonflies need water to reproduce," and Delaware has over 296,000 acres of wetlands, which is also their ideal habitat for their life cycle. Common Green Darners thrive in warm, still waters like ponds, lakes, and marshes, which are abundant in the state. They are also migratory, meaning they can adapt to Delaware's seasonal changes, including cold winters and humid summers.

In conclusion, the Common Green Darner is the ideal choice for Delaware's state dragonfly due to its environmental benefits, ability to support public health, and their compatibility with Delaware's climate and landscape.

WORKS CITED

- *Treehugger.com*
- *Nps.gov*
- *Entomology.umn.edu*