

# Ladybug Beetle



photo by Giff Beaton

GARDEN EARTH  
NATURALIST  
ECO-SERVICE CARDS

# LADYBUG BEETLE

FAMILY: Coccinellidae

ORDER: Coleoptera

## IDENTIFICATION CLUES



- ◆ 1/16 -3/8 inch long
- ◆ body rounded and often spotted
- ◆ shiney red, orange or yellow with black spots or black with red or yellow spots
- ◆ larvae spindle-shaped with spines and bright bands or spots



### Where to Look:

Ladybug beetles are found in gardens, meadows and fields and sometimes indoors in the winter months.

### Who Eats It?

Ladybug beetles taste terrible to most predators. The assassin bug, however, will eat ladybugs using its piercing and sucking mouthparts to suck out the body fluids.



### LIFE CYCLE

#### COMPLETE METAMORPHOSIS

Ladybug beetles lay clusters of eggs on plants where aphids are nearby. Larvae feed on the aphids and when they reach maturity they attach to a leaf and enter the pupal stage from which the adult ladybug emerges.

### What It Eats.

Ladybug beetles and their larvae prey on aphids and scale insects and are important in the garden for controlling these pests.



### Did You Know

During the Middle Ages, Ladybug beetles were used to keep insect pests off the grapevines. As thanks for providing this service they were dedicated to "Our Lady", hence their name.

### Role in the Ecosystem

Ladybug beetles help control aphids and other serious garden pests.