

ASIAN LADY BEETLES



Photo Credit: @musmibugs, IG

DESCRIPTION

Asian Lady Beetles are small insects, ranging from 1 - 10 mm, and are commonly yellow, orange, or scarlet with small black spots on their wing covers, with black legs, head and antennae. They have a distinguishing black 'M' just behind their heads, this is the easiest way to tell them apart from other ladybugs. They are generally considered useful insects, because many species feed on aphids or scale insects, which are pests in gardens, agricultural fields, orchards, and similar places. Within the colonies of such plant-eating pests, Asian lady beetles will lay hundreds of eggs, and when these eggs hatch, the larvae will commence feeding

immediately. In addition, they exude a viscous yellow, foul-smelling defensive compound when disturbed that may stain whatever it contacts.

HABITS

The adults hibernate, usually on the south sides of large objects such as trees or houses during the winter months. In the autumn they search for cracks, crevices, or other acceptable microsites for overwintering shelter. The overwintering adults emerge from hibernation in spring and lay 10-15 eggs. Larvae pass through 4 molts over 10-14 days, after which pupation occurs. After a period of several days, the adults become reproductively active and are able to reproduce again. Total life span is 1–2 years on average.

CONTROL

Asian Lady Beetles overwinter inside wall voids and attics. Exclusion of crack and crevices around window and door frames, vents, overhangs etc. should be screened with fine mesh screening or other appropriate sealer. Late summer or early fall, a properly labelled residual insecticide should be applied around door frames, window frames soffits and other cracks or crevices where insects may enter. In winter and spring, insect light traps can be used in the attic or dark room of the house to attract and capture Asian Lady Beetles. Gold sticks and/or glue boards work well and can be placed by windows.