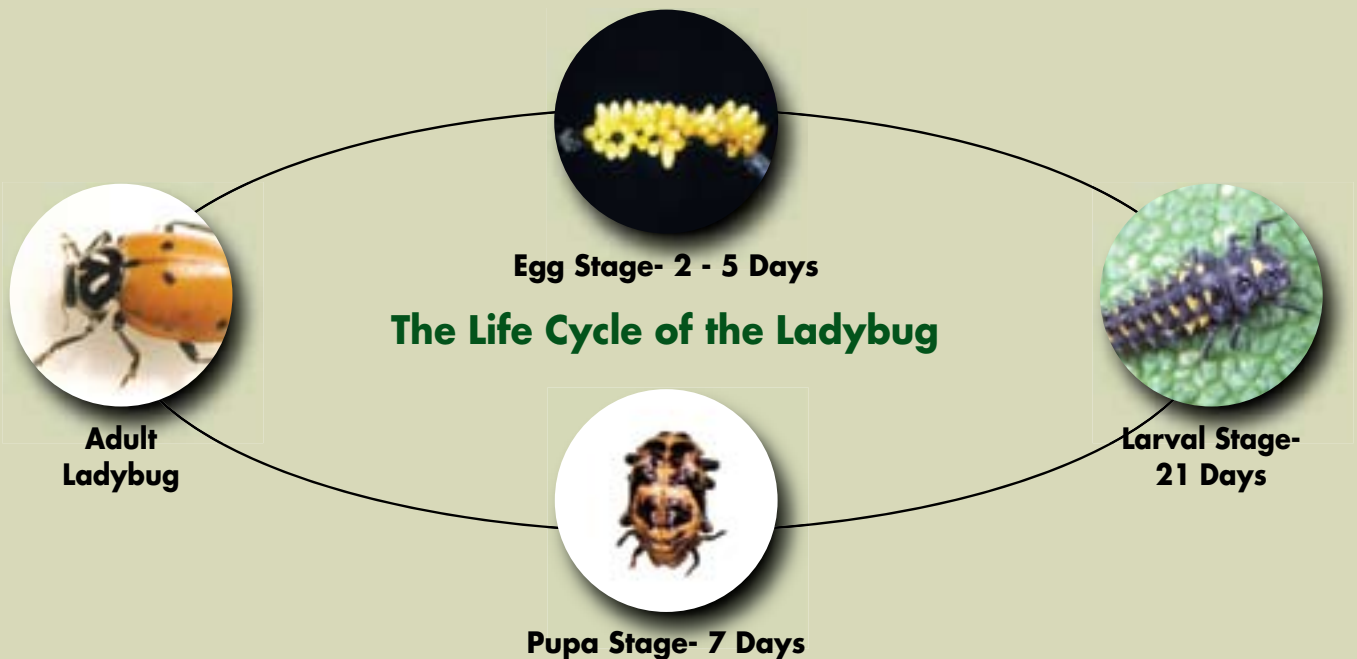


LADYBUGS

The life cycle of the ladybug is between four to six weeks. In the spring the adults lay up to three hundred eggs in an aphid colony. The eggs hatch in two to five days. The newly hatched larvae feed on Aphids for up to three weeks, and then they enter the pupa stage. The adult ladybug emerges about a week later. However, they usually do not have their spots for their first 24 hours of adulthood. So, if you catch one without spots, you may have found a brand new adult. There may be as many as six generations of ladybugs hatched in a year.



Facts about Ladybugs:

- There are nearly 5,000 different kinds of Ladybugs worldwide and 400 live in North America.
- A female Ladybug will lay more than 1,000 eggs in her lifetime.
- A Ladybug beats its wings 85 times a second when it flies.
- Aphids are a Ladybugs favorite food.
- Ladybugs chew from side to side and not up and down like people do.
- A gallon jar will hold from 72,000 to 80,000 Ladybugs.
- Ladybugs make a chemical that smells and tastes terrible so that birds and other predators don't eat them.
- If you squeeze a Ladybug it will bite you, but the bite is harmless and painless.
- The spots on a Ladybug will fade when it gets older.
- During hibernation, Ladybugs will feed on their stored fat.
- Ladybugs won't fly if the temperature is below 55 degrees Fahrenheit.
- The Ladybug is the official state insect of Delaware, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Ohio and Tennessee.
- The male Ladybug is usually smaller than the female ladybug.



Have you ever wanted to know what Ladybugs are or just wanted to figure out how Ladybugs see, then look at all these wonderful things about Ladybugs.

What is a Ladybug?

They are from the beetle family. Some even call them Lady beetles. They have a hard pair of forewings that protect the delicate hind wings that are folded underneath.

What does a Ladybug look like?

They are round, less than a half an inch long. Many are orange or red with black spots on the forewings. But some are black with yellow or red spots.

How many kinds of Ladybugs are there?

There are over 400 species in North America.

What are some of the names of the more common species?

There is the two-spotted, nine-spotted, striped, three-banded, parenthesis Ladybugs and the Mealybug destroyer.

What do Ladybugs eat?

Their favorite foods are Aphids, Mealybugs, Scale insects and Mites.

What is the Life Cycle of a Ladybug?

There are four (4) Stages

Stage 1- The Eggs stage- which are laid near Aphids.

Stage 2- The Larval stage- which feeds for several months on the Aphids.

Stage 3- The Pupa stage- which they are inactive at this time.

Stage 4- The Adult stage- they become adult Ladybugs.

Who are the Ladybug's enemies?

Anything that eats insects, like spiders, Praying Mantids and birds. But some Ladybugs have a chemical they produce that keeps their enemies from eating them after the first one.

Do Ladybugs hibernate?

Most ladybugs only live for one season. But some hibernate under logs, tree bark, or in a house until the next spring.

Can Ladybugs swim?

Yes, they float on water and paddle around too.

Where do Ladybugs live?

Ladybugs live in fields and yards, especially in gardens and on plants.

What adaptations does the Ladybug have that helps it survive?

Ladybugs have hard shells that protect their wings and deter predators from eating them. Ladybugs also "play dead" when in danger because many predators won't eat an insect if it doesn't move.

Here are a few facts you may not know about Ladybugs-

Most people know this insect by its nickname, the ladybug. Entomologists refer to it by the technical term, Ladybird Beetle. Ladybugs help gardeners and farmers by consuming huge numbers of plant-eating pests. During the winter, Ladybugs may be found hibernating in protected hiding places such as tree stumps, cracks in wood or ground-covering vegetation. They hibernate in groups of 50 - 100 million to produce and conserve warmth. When the temperature is below 55 degrees Fahrenheit or lower, Ladybugs won't fly.

