

Lady Beetles (Ladybugs, Ladybird beetles)

(Hippodamia convergens)

LM00533

Recommendations for Care

Temperature:

Short-term (dormant): (4 to 7 days): 8°C (46°F) – do not freeze.

Long term (active): 20°- 26°C (68°- 79°F)

Food:

Live aphids, mealy bugs, leafhoppers, other soft bodied insects.

Raisins softened in water, slices of sweet raw apple, replenish as needed.

Life Cycle:

Time varies; 3 to 10 months, depending on your climate.

Depending on weather and temperature, it will take 7 to 21 days to go from egg to beetle. The eggs will hatch; larvae will shed several times, then pupate, and turn into adult beetles. Adult beetles may last 3 to 9 months depending on weather conditions. In colder climates adult beetles will hibernate under leaf litter during the winter months.


There are over 450 different types of Lady Beetles found in the U.S. They are generally considered beneficial insects. The beetles and the larvae both consume large quantities of aphids, and other soft-bodied insect pests.

In the classroom, lady beetles can be housed in screen cages that contain living plants. Before release, mist habitat with clean, chlorine-free water. Offer live prey insects frequently. You can raise aphids separately for lady beetle food.

If you release them into a greenhouse or garden during summer months, spray plant foliage first and release towards evening. Beetles are more likely to stay in the area if you already have an aphid infestation.

Lady beetles can release a repellent smell if they feel threatened. Their red and black coloration warn predators that they have a foul taste.

Please consult your teacher's manual or experimental protocol for detailed information. If that is not available, consult your local library or internet for more information.

These care recommendations have been provided to you from .