



# J&L Garden Center

*The All Season Gift  
and Garden Center*

620 North 500 West Bountiful, Utah 292-0421

[www.JLGardenCenter.com](http://www.JLGardenCenter.com)

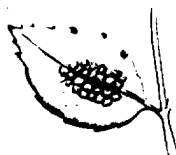
## Lady Bird Beetles - (Lady Bugs)

There are more than 175 different species of lady beetles. Many species feed upon aphids, eating up to 50 aphids per day, but other species feed upon scale insects, mealybugs and spider mites. A few species of lady beetles feed upon mildew. Ladybugs only dine on insects; they will not eat or harm any vegetation.



### Life Cycle

Ladybugs mate in the spring and lay yellow eggs in clusters of 10 to 50 on the underside of leaves. Approximately five days later the eggs hatch and the larvae emerge, extremely hungry. The larvae, tiny alligator-shaped caterpillars with orange spots on their backs, will eat about 400 aphids during their 2 to 3 week cycle. The larvae then pupate. They emerge from their cocoon, in about one week, as adults. They begin feeding on aphids, other insects, and pollen to build up their body fat. In the late-summer and fall ladybugs begin to migrate to the mountains. They lie dormant under the snow during the winter months. In the early spring they fly back to the valleys to resume searching for food. They mate, lay eggs, and die.

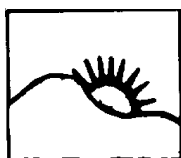


Commercially, lady bugs are harvested high in the mountains during the winter and put in cold storage until they are ready to be shipped. During storage, ladybugs are fed a special protein diet that helps to slow down their natural instinct to fly. When they are released into the yard they are ready to start eating immediately.



### Release

Ladybugs should always be released after sundown, since they only fly during the daylight. During the night, they will search the area for food. They will stay in the area as long as there is enough food to eat. The more they eat, the more eggs they will lay and the more insect-eating



larvae you will get. If you release ladybugs in the daylight hours many will simply fly away; into your neighbor's yard.



Water the plants in the area of your yard you want to introduce ladybugs before you release any ladybugs; make sure the plants have water on the leaves and stems. Ladybugs tend to crawl upwards and towards the light so release ladybugs in small groups at the base of plants and shrubs that have aphids, or other insects.

Be sure to wait several days after spraying any insecticides in the area before you release your ladybugs. Insecticides do not know the difference between good bugs and bad bugs.



Store ladybugs in a refrigerator, between 35 to 40 degrees, until you are ready to release them. Ladybugs purchased March through May should not be stored more than three to five days, since their body fat has been depleted. After May they may be stored two or three months.

Although ladybugs can surely handle aphids, scale, mealy bugs, thrips, and small flies they can't do it all. Caterpillars and grasshoppers, for example, are too much for a ladybug, but just right for a Praying Mantis.

