

Beneficial Insects



Ladybug larva (on left) and adult ladybug (on right)

Ladybugs (Ladybird Beetles)

There are approximately 5,000 different species of ladybugs in the world. The most common one in Connecticut is the seven-spotted ladybug. It has a shiny red and black body with three spots on each side and one in the middle. It is 0.3 to 0.4 inches long. Ladybugs eat aphids and other plant-eating pests. One ladybug can eat up to 5,000 insects during its life.

Ladybugs lay their eggs in rows on the underside of a leaf, typically where aphids can be found. Their larvae hatch in a few days. Seven-spotted ladybug larvae are long, black, and spiky-looking with orange or yellow spots. Some people think they look like tiny alligators. The life cycle of a ladybug takes 4 to 8 weeks.

Ladybugs are most active from spring until fall. When the weather turns cold, they look for a warm, safe place to hibernate, such as in rotting logs, under rocks, or inside houses.