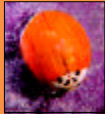


At right, an Asian lady beetle larva eats aphids. It will molt into a pupa and then finally into an adult beetle. The pupa is often attached to a leaf or other substrate near an aphid colony. The pupa is orange with black spots and similar in size and shape to the adult.



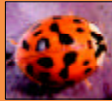
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## The Multi-Colored Asian Lady Beetle

*Harmonia axyridis* Pallas



H. Russell

### A good bug with some bad habits

The multi-colored Asian lady beetle is a native of Asia and is relatively new to Michigan. Like many exotic species, it has readily adapted to climates and habitats in the U.S. As with most lady beetles, it is a highly beneficial predator of insect pests, feeding mainly on aphids. It therefore helps protect gardens and crops from these and other pests.

## Multi-colored Asian lady beetle

Asian lady beetles create trouble when populations build up and large numbers enter buildings in the fall to hibernate. During warm winter days and in early spring, the beetles wake up and crawl into areas often inhabited by people. Since lady beetles are a significant natural defense against aphids and other pests, it is important to correctly identify the Asian lady beetle and use restraint with the use of pesticides or other management tactics.

### **Distinguishing Asian lady beetles from other lady beetles**

The adult is oval-shaped and about ¼-inch long. The color of its back ranges from mustard-yellow to bright red-orange but may be almost entirely black. The number of black spots on its back may vary from zero to over 20. **Distinguishing**

**feature:** The area on the insect's back just behind the head is straw-colored with four black spots that merge to form a "W" shape when viewed from the front (see picture at right).

The Asian lady beetle larva resembles a

small, spiny alligator with a blue-black body and two rows of small orange to reddish spots on its back. Newly hatched, they are about 1/8-inch long and grow to about 1/2 inch.



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