

ASIAN LADY BEETLE

IDENTIFICATION

Asian Lady Beetles are small multicolored beetles. Their colors range from yellow to red and may or may not have black spots on their wing covers. Lady Beetles are small oval bugs that are ¼-inch long. Most beetles have a distinct “M” or “W” shape on the white part by their head.

HABITS

Originally introduced to the United States in 1916, the Asian Lady Beetles were used as protection for crops and plants as an alternative to chemicals. Ladybugs are very beneficial, they feed on aphids and mites that destroy crops, trees, and gardens. During the summer, Asian Lady Beetles live in trees, gardens, and crop fields where they can easily find food. As temperatures fall, ladybugs find warmer places to survive the winter. These winter hiding places include under debris, under leaves, behind tree bark, and in buildings. They find their way into attics and wall voids, huddled together to keep warm until spring. During winter, ladybugs do not reproduce and do not eat at all. While rare, lady beetles may bite people as they search for food on a surface, but they do not break skin or draw blood.

CONTROL

Different methods are used to control Asian Lady Beetles. Environmental alterations are

used as preventative measures to reduce the risk of ladybugs entering households and buildings during the colder months when they seek shelter. Pesticides and insecticides can also be used to control ladybugs.

ENVIRONMENTAL ALTERATIONS

Control for Asian Lady Beetles begins outside. Gaps or cracks in windows, siding, and utility lines should be sealed with silicone caulk. All vents should be sealed with insect screens to keep beetles out. Garage doors and outside doors need to be fitted with weather stripping and tight fitting sweeps.

PROVIDED SERVICES

There are treatments that can be used both inside and outside of homes. Around the exterior, pesticide treatments are applied thoroughly to cover all points of entry. These are applied in late September or early October to prevent Lady Beetles entry before the cold sets in. Interior insecticides treatments are used in specific areas where the beetles are present. Along with insecticides, sticky paper placed along windowsills is another effective method to removing these beetles from inside homes. The most effective method to interior beetle infestations is persistent vacuuming. After cleaning, bag the insects and throw them away outside.



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