

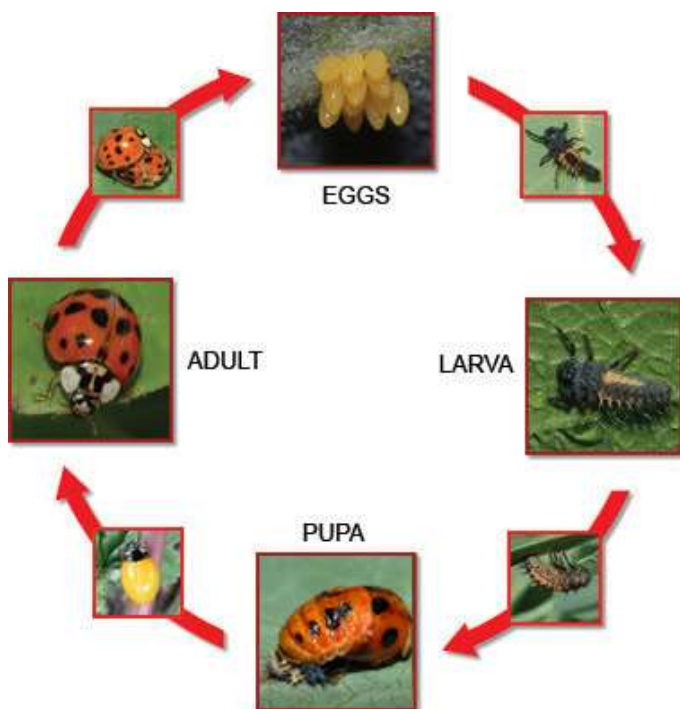
# Lady Bugs

## Hippodamia Convergens

Lady Bugs, or Lady Bird Beetles, are beneficial insects who are known for their voracious appetites for aphids, both as adults and larva. The larva consumes around 25 aphids a day, the adults 50-60 a day. As an adult, a lady bug will eat around 5000 aphids!

Release your lady bugs on a calm day, late in the afternoon. Place them at the base of aphid infested plants and mist the lady bugs and the plant with water. The lady bugs have been hibernating in the fridge, and require water, so they will head straight for the water to drink. Letting them go at dusk allows them to settle in for the night and encourages them to stay in your yard. If there is not enough food in your yard, the lady bugs will fly away. Keep in mind that lady bugs may play dead when threatened, so it is best to let them crawl out of the bag on their own.

After a few days of feeding, the females will lay small clusters of yellow eggs on the underside of leaves and stems of aphid infested plants. Within seven days these eggs will hatch and small orange and black alligator-like larva will emerge. These larvae will also eat aphids and will undergo metamorphosis transforming into your own home-grown lady bugs! Planting dill, angelica, yarrow, roses and marigolds can help attract wild lady bugs into your yard.



Remember that lady bugs will be killed by neem oil, insecticidal soaps and other non-selective pesticides, so use with care.