

Lady Beetle (*Coleoptera: Coccinellidae*)

Lady beetles (ladybird beetles or ladybugs) are one of the most common beneficials in strawberry fields. Both adults and larvae are effective predators. Lady beetles feed on aphids, scale, and mites.

The most common species of lady beetles in Minnesota strawberries include: *Coccinella septempunctata* (sevenspotted lady beetle), *Hippodamia convergens* (convergent lady beetle), *Cycloneda munda*, and *Harmonia axyridis* (multicolored Asian lady beetle). Sevenspotted lady beetle and multicolored Asian lady beetle were introduced in the United States, and now appear to be more common than the native species.

Adult lady beetles are generally convex-shaped, brightly-colored or dark with or without spots, and range in size from 1 mm to 10 mm.

Adult multicolored Asian lady beetle occurs in many forms with different spots and color. The common form is orange with or without spots. Body length is about 8 mm.

■ 8 mm



Multicolored Asian lady beetle
(spotless form)



Multicolored Asian lady beetle
(spotted form)

Female lady beetles lay numerous **eggs** in clusters on the underside of leaves. **Larvae** are elongate, usually dark with brightly-colored markings, and have well-developed legs. Full grown larvae are about 6 mm. **Pupae** are enclosed in a case attached to a leaf or tree branch.



Cycloneda munda



Lady beetles egg mass



Larva — 6 mm



Pupa

Lady beetles overwinter as adults in sheltered places and resume activity in the spring. Most species have one or two generations per year in Minnesota.

Lady beetles can be distinguished from leaf beetles and other look-alikes by their short and clubbed antennae, and oval body shape.



Sevenspotted lady beetle with clubbed antennae (circled)



Labidomera spp. (leaf beetle)



Spotted cucumber beetle