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Ladybugs "play dead" and make a chemical that smells and tastes terrible so that birds and other predators won't eat them.



Ladybugs are a type of beetle; insects with six jointed legs. Ladybugs have special organs on their feet to help them smell. They use their antennae to touch, smell and taste. Females lay their eggs in yellow clusters under a leaf or stem often near a colony of aphids (tiny garden pests that damage many plants.) Within a week, the eggs hatch into alligator-shaped larvae that start gobbling up the aphids, tiny worms and a variety of insect eggs that gardeners are happy to get rid of! Ladybugs have a life cycle that is similar to the butterfly. They go through a complete metamorphosis during their 8-week life.

## Ladybugs ... Welcome neighbors in our gardens.



- A female ladybug will lay more than 1000 eggs in her lifetime but they are so small you can hardly see them.
- Ladybugs chew from side to side and not up and down like people do.
- A gallon jar will hold from 72,000 to 80,000.
- The lady bug uses its front legs to clean its head and its antennae.
- The spots on a ladybug fade as the ladybug gets older.
- Not all lady bugs are female.
- They can fly at 15 mph.

## Ladybug Facts



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