

# RELEASING INSTRUCTIONS OF LADYBUGS FOR EFFECTIVE APHID CONTROL

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## Ladybugs Solve Your Aphid Pest Problem

Are aphids or other soft-bodied insects a recurring problem? Leaves curled up preventing pesticide applications from reaching the pests? Then why not employ a professional organic pest exterminator - the ladybug. This beneficial insect works in cooperation with an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program, such as Living Resources Company provides, to keep your pest problems under control organically.

Ladybugs are able to penetrate the plant shield (curled up leaves), find, and destroy the offending aphids (as well as many other soft-bodied insects). Unlike insecticidal soap applications that have to be reapplied as new aphids appear, if ladybugs are released properly, they will provide long-term control.

## Proper Ladybug Release

Proper release of these garden allies is critical to their successfully achieving plant protection.

The following instructions will allow you to rear ladybugs (and their children) throughout the growing season from just one release. If these steps are not adhered to the released ladybugs are likely to fly away and not provide any pest control (although your neighbors might appreciate your help).

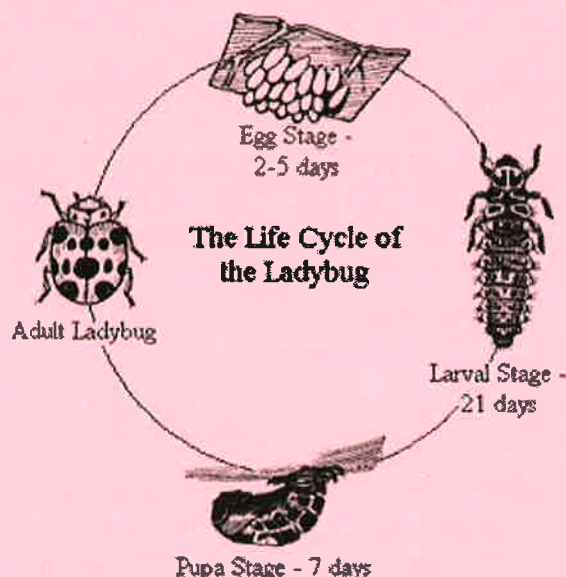
For successful ladybug releasing, follow these simple rules:

1. Do not release beneficial insects unless there is food (aphids or other similar pests) for them to eat. Before releasing, wait for pests to appear in sufficient numbers to feed the ladybugs.
2. Do not release following a pesticide application. The pesticide will likely have killed most of the food source and pesticide applications or residues may be toxic to ladybugs since they are more susceptible to pesticides, especially those made of synthetic materials.
3. If pest population gets out of hand insecticidal soap can be used to bring down the pest population to reasonable numbers prior to the release of ladybugs.
4. Place container of ladybugs (often a mesh bag) in shade of the infested plant for three days. During this time make sure to mist (not water) the porous container several times daily to keep the ladybugs happy, healthy, and alive.
5. At sunset of the third day open the container. Do not shake out the beneficial insects. Instead, mist them again and take several branches from the aphid loaded plant and bend them into the container. Ladybugs do not fly at night or when wet. Throughout the night they will crawl on the plant and find plenty of tasty aphids to devour.



6. At sunrise the following day, mist the entire plant your ladybugs are on. Some of the ladybugs may fly away, but many will be unable and unwilling to leave this well stocked cafeteria. If just a few stay for forty-eight hours they will mate, lay eggs, and when the larvae hatch an even more effective aphid eating machine will assist you in control; since the larvae don't have wings, they cannot fly away.
7. Make sure you learn what the ladybug adult, eggs (lemon yellow), larvae and pupa look like so you do not destroy them thinking they are a harmful pest.
8. Optional: When releasing ladybugs (and next morning) mist them with a dilute mixture (50:50) of a sugary carbonated soft drink (e.g., Seven Up or Sprite) and water. This temporarily glues their wing covers preventing flight. Artificial food (i.e., Bug Chow, BugPro, Wheast) can also be put out.

Following these simple instructions will provide you with aphid control for an entire growing season without the need to use pesticides (organic or synthetic).



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