

Pest Profile



Photo credit: By Jim Kalish, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Common Name: Multicolored Asian Lady Beetle

Scientific Name: *Harmonia axyridis* (Pallas)

Order and Family: Coleoptera: Coccinellidae

Size and Appearance: Adults are distinctive with a black pronotum with white margins and marks that look like an “M.” This “M” is an easy way to differentiate this beetle from similar species. The overall body color can vary somewhat, from a light yellow-orange to a darker reddish-orange. Several black spots are also present though not always consistent in number or appearance. They are roughly 6-10 mm in length. Larvae are mobile and have numerous spines over their black bodies. Often, there are yellow spots or other coloration present.

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg	1 mm in length	Orange, sticky eggs are deposited in groups of 12 on plants generally infested with aphids- a favored food source.
Larva/Nymph	1 mm- 10 mm in length depending on instar	Distinctive, mobile, dark with yellow or orange markings. Spines present all over body. 4 instars.
Adult	6-10 mm long	Black pronotum with white coloration in margins that form an “M”. Color ranging from yellow to dark red. Black spotting common and can vary in number present. Round in appearance.
Pupa (if applicable)	10-11 mm long	Mature larvae will attach to leaves by the end of their abdomen and spin a cocoon. Light at first, darkens as emerge time approaches.

Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.): Chewing

Host /s: *Harmonia axyridis* feeds on aphids, mites, scales, mealybugs, and their eggs.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults): Multicolored Asian lady beetles are mostly beneficial and were brought to the United States to feed on aphids in Pecan trees. However, they are not “equipped” to handle our winter weather and often seek indoor shelter by the thousands. Though they cause no direct damage, they do cause allergic reactions and promote asthma in sensitive individuals as well as staining textiles with a yellow compound they release as a defense.

References:

Smith, E.H. and Whitman, R.C. (2007). Occasional Invaders- Multicolored Ladybird Beetle. In *NPMA Field Guide of Structural Pests*. (7.4.1). National Pest Management Association International.

Mizell, R.F. (2012). Multicolored Asian Ladybeetle. University of Florida, Department of Entomology and Nematology. Retrieved July 16th, 2016 from http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/beneficial/multicolored_asian_lady_beetle.htm