

LADYBUGS!



Ladybugs are probably the most universally known beneficial insect. They are found nearly everywhere and are regarded by many gardeners and farmers as a sign of general well-being in the insect complex. They are most successful at aphid control, but also eat mites, scale, mealybugs, and other soft-bodied insects.

Ladybugs hibernate in the winter, and they tend to go inactive during the hottest parts of summer. They are heavy feeders in the spring and fall, which coincides with the highest aphid populations.

Store the ladybugs in the refrigerator until you are ready to release them; they will go into hibernation. They should be released in the evening or early morning for the best results. Lightly sprinkle or irrigate the area, then release a few ladybugs at the base of each plant, being careful not to release too many at one time. (If there is not enough food for them all, they will fly away.) Wait a few days, then release some more.

Ladybugs may be stored in your refrigerator for up to 2 weeks. DO NOT FREEZE!



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