

A Bug's Life Multicolored Asian lady beetle

Harmonia axyridis

Fun facts

- Natural enemy of aphids and other plant pests like other lady beetles
- Overwinter in protective place as adults in leaf litter or inside buildings
- Gather in large numbers on western and southern facing exposures and crawl upwards until they find gap
- Sometimes will bite people
- Does not reproduce indoors

Identification

Larva: Black and spiny with orange markings

Adult: 1/3" long, range of colors from orange to yellow to red, may have 0 to 19 black spots, has black "M" shape marking behind head

Other features: Strong smelling, yellow, defensive fluid secreted from legs, may stain fabrics or furniture

Management

- Physical exclusion - caulking and sealing holes, fix or install screening, fix weather-stripping and door seals
- Trap with glue boards, sweep or vacuum when they become active again in the spring or warm days
- Perimeter spray of insecticide to exterior of home in the fall as they begin to enter buildings



Photos: J. Green