

LADYBUGS

Hippodamia convergens

This package contains a minimum of 1,000 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 usually most successful at aphid control, but also eat mites, scales, mealybugs and a whole host of other soft-bodied insects. Ladybugs hibernate in the Winter months and also tend to go inactive during the hottest parts of the Summer. They are heavy feeders during the Spring and Fall which coincides with the times of highest aphid populations.

RELEASE

1. When Ladybugs arrive put the sack in a cool place (refrigerator) until late evening or early morning.
2. Do not release the Ladybugs during the heat of the day or while the sun is shining.
3. Ladybugs should be released when plants have some foliage, which will provide coverage, and some pest insects are present, which will provide food.
4. In order to achieve biological control of insects try to maintain a balance of a few pests for food and enough Ladybugs to keep them in check, being careful not to release too many Ladybugs at one time.
5. Sprinkle or irrigate the area before releasing the Ladybugs so they will have a drink of water after their journey. They can also be watered by sprinkling the sack with water. **DO NOT PUT WET BAGS INTO REFRIGERATOR.**
6. Ladybugs should be released a few at a time twice a week during the season when leaves are young, tender and attractive to pest insects.
7. Apply 1 tablespoon on each shrub and a handful on each tree to keep them free from pest damage.
8. For heavy infestation, release all the Ladybugs in the bag at on time.

STORAGE

Ladybugs may be stored in your refrigerator for up to two weeks. **DO NOT FREEZE.** After application, retie the bag and place in refrigerator until all Ladybugs are used.

A LITTLE HINT TO KEEP THEM AROUND

Use a 50/50 mixture of Water & Soda (Coke). Put it in a standard spray bottle and spritz the Ladybugs. This will stick their wings together temporarily. This will help them to stay in your garden or greenhouse longer. You can repeat this application every three days.