



TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

College of Agriculture, Human and Natural Sciences

Disaster Education Response Team



Multicolored Asian Lady Beetle

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The multicolored Asian lady beetle is a native of east Asia. It was introduced into the United States as a biological control agent during the twentieth century to control aphids and scale insects. The beetle was first recorded as a nuisance pest by homeowners in 1988 in Abita Springs, Louisiana.

Identifying Multicolored Asian Lady Beetle

- Adult multicolored Asian lady beetles are 7 mm long and 5.5 mm wide. Adults are oval and convex in shape with an “m” or “w” patch on the area behind the head. Spots range in number from 0 to 19.
- The life cycle of the beetle takes about 3 to 4 weeks, with multiple generations per year. Eggs are laid on the undersides of leaves of ornamentals, forest trees, wheat, tobacco, soybean and numerous other plants. The larval form is beneficial and poses no concern to homeowners.
- Overwintering adults can be a nuisance pest for homeowners. The adults aggregate in large numbers in the fall and may seek shelter in doorways, windows, walls and porches of buildings.
- Multicolored Asian lady beetle emits a smelly, orange-colored defensive fluid from its leg joints that can stain walls and fabrics. The secretion may also be irritating and cause an allergic reaction in sensitive individuals.



Photo © Jon Yuschock , Bugwood.org

Managing Multicolored Asian Lady Beetle On Your Property

- First, try to prevent entry into homes by installing tight screens and sealing cracks and crevices. If beetles have gained entry, remove them with a broom, dust pan or vacuum cleaner.
- Black light traps deployed with glueboards may provide relief from beetles flying or crawling around the interior of homes.
- Pyrethrum/pyrethroid insecticides can be applied around doors, windows and crevices to mitigate home infestations. Short-lived insecticides (pyrethrum) may require multiple applications to achieve control.
- Contact your local extension agent for additional information.

Always follow pesticide label instructions.



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