

Problem: Asian Lady Beetle



Hosts: N/A

Description: Most people are familiar with lady beetles and know they are beneficial because they feed on certain insect pests such as aphids. Though the Asian lady beetle (*Harmonia axyridis*) does feed on other insects, as do other lady beetles, it differs from its cousins in ways that can make it a nuisance. Though lady beetles usually cluster together when overwintering, only the Asian lady beetle tends to do so around buildings. They are attracted to light colored buildings; especially those that receive direct sunlight. Once several beetles have found an attractive site, they will emit a chemical signal to bring in their friends. Unfortunately, their friends can number in the tens or hundreds of thousands. They then look for nooks and crannies in which they can hide and will invade a home if they can find a way in. Once inside, they will fly around lights and crawl on furnishings. When disturbed, Asian lady beetles emit a yellow-orange liquid (their blood) that produces a foul odor. This material can stain walls and home furnishings. More beetles mean a more intense smell. The beetles can also pinch when they land on bare skin. Fortunately, they are unable to break the skin surface.

Recommendations: Control of these insects is difficult. Caulking cracks and plugging other openings will help but it is difficult to get every possible entry point. Beetles that make it inside can be removed with the use of a vacuum cleaner. Be sure to remove and seal the bag or still living beetles may escape.

Insecticides may be used outside as a perimeter treatment. The most effective products will be wettable powders and microencapsulated formulations of residual pyrethroids. Examples of products that can be used include bifenthrin (Talstar, Hi-Yield Bug Blaster Bifenthrin), cyfluthrin (Tempo, BioAdvanced Complete Insect Killer), deltamethrin, esfenvalerate (Asana, Monterey Bug Buster II) and tralomethrin. Trade names vary, so check the label.

References:

1. [Asian Lady Beetle Infestation of Structures](#), University of Kentucky, College of Agriculture EntFact-

Latest Update: 10/9/2023

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