

Sta-Home™ Lady Beetles

Beneficial insects help control many pests in your garden without toxic chemicals!

Our Sta-Home Lady Beetles arrive healthy, and ready to feed on aphids! Females immediately lay eggs, which provide a second wave of hungry aphid-eaters within a week. The larvae are even hungrier than the adult beetles!

One package of Lady Beetles contains about 900 Sta-Home adults that will produce over 10,000 aphid-eating larvae.

Keep your aphid population under control with Sta-Home Lady Beetles!

One package of Sta-Home Lady Beetles covers approximately 1,000 sq. ft. area.

Sta-Home Lady Beetles are also available in packs of 3, one package shipped in 3 shipments at 3-week intervals. Please sprinkle a little water on the cloth bag, as they will be thirsty after their long trip.

Release and distribute the Sta-Home Lady Beetles as soon as they arrive, either in the evening or early the following morning. We will send them when the weather is appropriate for them in your area.

Gardens Alive!

812-537-8650

5100 Schenley Place

Fax 812-537-5108

Lawrenceburg, IN 47025

www.gardens-alive.com



Sta-Home™ Lady Beetles

We're happy you chose to use lady beetles to help protect your garden from crop-destroying insects! We want you and your lady beetles to be happy. To ensure the best outcome, please use the following guidelines.

When your lady beetles arrive:

Your lady beetles can become dehydrated during shipping. Please lightly mist their bag with water when they arrive (take care not to mist so heavily that puddling occurs inside their bag).

Once they've had a little time to hydrate (and to dry from being misted—do not put wet bags into the refrigerator), place your lady beetles in the refrigerator (35–40 degrees F) for a short cooling and resting period. It is best not to store them in the refrigerator for long periods of time. However, if they have arrived too early for you to use them or if the weather is poor, you can store them in the refrigerator for 1–2 weeks (be sure they have a source of hydration).

Another option is to transfer your lady beetles to a small habitat for a day or so before releasing them into your garden. If you choose to place them in a habitat,

be sure to offer a few pieces of sponge soaked with water so they can rehydrate. A habitat will offer more room to move about and help them be less stressed from their journey. Be sure they can get plenty of air, too.

About your lady beetles:

Your Sta-Home™ Lady Beetles have been fed a special conditioning diet for 2 weeks. Our insect rearing laboratory uses this process of feeding and holding the lady beetles to ensure that they are ready to attack your pests without the need for a "migratory flight". They will remain in your garden so long as a food source is available.

Sta-Home Lady Beetles are not shipped until they have begun laying eggs. Lady beetle eggs are orange, football-shaped and laid in clusters. Egg laying increases their effectiveness because not only will the adults be feeding, but the young larvae that hatch will also feed. Lady beetle larvae look like tiny black alligators with orange spots. One larva will eat about 400 aphids before it reaches the pupal stage. Within 2 weeks, you will have at least 50 times more lady beetle larvae than if you had released common, field-collected lady beetles.

Tips for successful lady beetle release (and getting them to remain in your garden):

- Ideally, the temperature should be at least 55 degrees F when releasing your lady beetles.
- Before releasing your lady beetles, mist the area where you will be releasing them.
- It's best to release lady beetles in the early evening after sundown. Lady beetles only fly during the day, so releasing them at night helps ensure they'll search your yard and garden for food (and stay there so long as food is plentiful).
- When releasing them, distribute your lady beetles equally at the base of plants, shrubs or trees that have aphids or other insects. This will ensure that there is food for them to start feeding on and will encourage them to lay eggs. The newly emerged larvae will migrate throughout your garden to other areas where pests are located.
- It's helpful to release your lady beetles in waves of 2 or 3 sessions, keeping them in the refrigerator for 2 or 3 days between releases. This gives more of them a chance to settle in and find food.
- By adding a plant or two that aphids love, you'll ensure a sustained feast for your lady beetles and help keep aphids away from your garden. Aphids like early cabbage, marigolds and radishes and one of their absolute favorites is nasturtium.
- In the event you find aphids to be on low supply in your garden, you can help ensure your lady beetles have a source of food by adding a couple of their favorite plants. Their meal of choice is insects, but when necessary they will feed on pollen (they will not harm your vegetation in any way). They are attracted to plants with white or yellow flowers and flat leaves such as angelica, caraway, cilantro, dill, fennel, tansy, wild carrot and yarrow. They also like the pollen from cosmos, coreopsis, dandelion and scented geraniums.

#5065 One 900-count package

#5066 Three 900-count packages (one package delivered every three weeks)



Gardens Alive!®, Inc.
4424 Dixie Highway
Fairfield, OH 45014
513-354-1483

