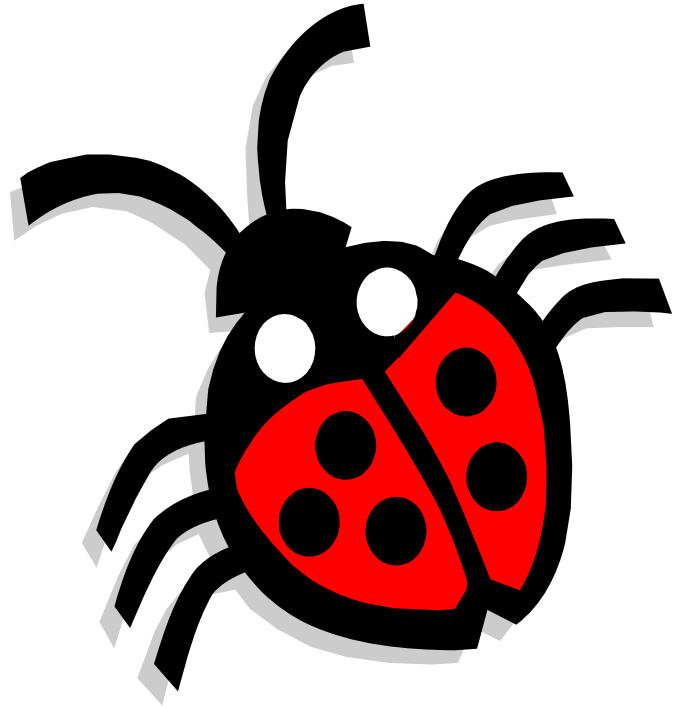


# Ladybug Information

*Coccinellidae* is the family name of beetles commonly known as “ladybugs,” “ladybirds,” or “lady beetles,” which is the term generally preferred by scientists. There are over 5,000 known species and over 450 in North America alone.

**Diet:** Ladybugs feed on pests that destroy plants. These insects include aphids, scale insects, mealybugs, mites, and even flies. Ladybugs can eat up to 100 aphids a day!

**Habitat:** Ladybugs inhabit forests, fields, grasslands, gardens, and can sometimes live in homes.



## Fun Facts:

- Ladybugs are thought to bring good luck in many cultures.
- Ladybugs can't fly in the cold weather, so they hibernate in the winter.
- In her lifetime, a female ladybug can lay over 1,000 eggs.
- Ladybugs beat their wings 85 times per second.
- Males are also called ladybugs, but they are typically smaller than the females.
- Six states call the ladybug their state insect: Delaware, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Ohio, and Tennessee.
- Their bright colors keep predators away, because in nature, bright colors usually indicate a poisonous animal and predators don't want to take any chances.
- Ladybugs can also protect themselves by secreting fluid from their legs while they play dead. The fluid has a foul taste so predators do not want to eat them.