

7-spot Ladybird *Coccinella 7-punctata*

The most familiar ladybird, known for its bright colours and popular with gardeners for its voracious appetite for aphids. Adults overwinter, often communally, in sheltered nooks, appearing in gardens in spring and summer. After mating, the female lays batches of yellow eggs on aphid-infested plants. The active larva lives for up to six weeks, eating several hundred aphids before pupating on vegetation, the full life cycle taking about two months to complete. A widespread and abundant beneficial insect found throughout Britain.

Orange Ladybird *Halyzia 16-guttata*

A distinctive ladybird with 16 white spots and a partially translucent thorax, found on many trees and bushes, especially birches, sycamore and ash, where it feeds on powdery mildew. It often flies at night and may be attracted to lighted windows and moth traps. Most common in August and September. Widespread throughout Britain and Ireland; in southern England, its range and frequency has increased in recent years.

Harlequin Ladybird *Harmonia axyridis*

This recent alien arrival into Britain has caused much alarm. It is a predatory species, which out-competes other ladybirds for food and then feeds on them and other insects when food becomes scarce, possibly affecting the future of some native species. Markings vary greatly, the most typical form resembling the size and colour of the 7-spot Ladybird but with up to 21 black spots. Found on various trees, especially lime and sycamore. First recorded from the south-east in 2004, it has spread rapidly north and west and now occurs in Wales, northern England and Scotland.

Cream-spot Ladybird *Calvia 14-guttata*

Another white-spotted ladybird with little variation. It has a rusty-red ground colour and occurs on small deciduous trees and shrubs, where it feeds on aphids and plant lice. It hibernates in crevices and emerges in spring. Frequent in gardens throughout Britain and Ireland.

10-spot Ladybird *Adalia 10-punctata*

A very variable and abundant ladybird best told from related species by the pale-coloured legs. Widely distributed and found on many deciduous trees and shrubs, where it feeds on aphids.

2-spot Ladybird *Adalia 2-punctata*

A very common species with a great range of markings, the most frequent being red with two conspicuous black spots on the wing cases; all forms have black legs. Both adults and larvae are beneficial in the garden, preying on aphids on many trees, shrubs and plants. Large groups of hibernating adults may sometimes be found either in houses or outdoors, behind bark or in bird nestboxes. They emerge in the first warm days of spring and can be found everywhere, throughout the country. **Similar species** The 10-spot Ladybird is a similar size and is equally variable, but has yellow rather than black legs.

14-spot Ladybird *Propylea 14-punctata*

The angular spots of this variable yellow and black ladybird are often confluent, but the central dorsal line is always present. It lives on a variety of mainly low-growing plants, where it and its larvae feed on aphids and plant lice. Common in England, Wales and Ireland, with a few scattered records from Scotland. **Similar species** The 22-spot Ladybird is smaller, with more regular, rounded spots.

24-spot Ladybird *Subcoccinella 24-punctata*

The number of spots on this small, russet-coloured ladybird, which is covered in fine grey hairs, varies from none to 26. It is a non-carnivorous species, feeding mainly on clovers and vetches. Widely distributed, it is locally common in England and Wales.

22-spot Ladybird *Psyllobora 22-punctata*

A tiny, but easily recognised ladybird that varies little and is found in low vegetation, such as nettles, hogweed and amongst grasses, where it feeds on mildew. Quite common in England, Wales and eastern Ireland, but rare in Scotland.

Larder Beetle or Bacon Beetle*Dermetes lardarius*

Often found indoors, where the larva is sometimes a pest of dry foodstuff, outdoors it breeds in the nests of birds and rodents. The female lays up to 150 eggs throughout her life in a single generation, with the complete life cycle taking 2-3 months. Outside, the winter is passed as an adult. Cosmopolitan, being found in most parts of Britain.

Fur Beetle or Two-spotted Carpet Beetle

Attagenus pello
The larva has an even wider dietary range than that of the adult Larder Beetle, including carpets, furniture upholstery and museum specimens. Outdoors, it lives in birds' nests and dried animal corpses, taking 1-3 years to mature; the harmless adult feeds on pollen from many plants and shrubs. Overwinters as an adult; widespread throughout Britain.

Furniture Beetle or Woodworm*Anobium punctatum*

Considered mainly an indoor pest, the Woodworm is common in gardens, where the larva tunnels for up to five years in fence posts and dead branches. Adults, which from the side appear to have a hood over the head, mate soon after emergence between May and August, and females lay about 40 eggs in crevices, including old emergence holes in both softwoods and hardwoods. Common and widespread throughout Britain.

Carpet Beetle *Anthrenus verbasci*

Another species whose larva, the notorious 'Woolly Bear', causes damage indoors, but outdoors lives mainly in birds' nests. Adults become active in spring and early summer and are often seen flying in the sunshine or feeding from the flowers of *Spiraea* or umbellifers. Widespread in England, Wales and Ireland.

