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Lady beetles

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Lady beetle larvae have dark, elongated bodies with orange markings and well developed legs (5-6 mm).



Adult lady beetles are generally oval-shaped, and are red to orange with varying numbers of black spots (5-7 mm long). Pollen is an important part of the diet of some species.



Lady beetle eggs are barrel-shaped and laid in clusters.



The adult black lady beetle, *Stethorus punctum*, is black with silvery hairs (about 1 mm). The larva is brown or black with short spines. Both feed principally on mites.

Stethorus overwinters within the orchard in leaf litter around the base of trees. The area in the herbicide strip near the trunk of the tree should not be disturbed from November to mid-April when adults become active.

Pyrethroid insecticide applications made after half-inch green adversely affect *Stethorus*.

Additional information

- For additional information see: <http://www.ipm.msu.edu/asianladybeetle.htm>
- About **natural enemies** (from *Fruit Crop Ecology and Management*)
- More about **lady beetles** (From *Identifying natural enemies*)