



Ladybugs

Ladybugs are a very useful weapon against some commonly encountered garden pests. They have a large appetite for aphids, thrips, mealybugs, and other soft bodied plant pests.

World wide, there are around 5000 species of ladybugs, also known as "Lady Beetles" , most are helpful to farmers and gardeners, in fact that is how they got their name, shortened from "The Beetle of Our Lady".

We used ladybugs (*Hippodamia convergens*) in our store, Organic Garden Center to eradicate an aphid infestation which probably came in on a rose cutting. After receiving our package of 1500 ladybugs in a net bag, we let them cool off in the refrigerator over night. In the morning, after misting the plants, we let the ladybugs go to town. Depending on the time of year, ladybugs can be stored for 2 to 3 months in the refrigerator living off their stored fat.

Ladybugs are safe to use in organic settings indoors or out, and are recommended for use around fish ponds where sprays such as pyrethrins would be unadvisable.