

## MULTI-COLORED ASIAN LADY BEETLES

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As the end of October approaches, the multi-colored Asian lady beetles are beginning to move into people's homes. Because they are pumpkin-colored and typically move indoors around Halloween, they have been nicknamed the "Halloween Lady Beetle." If you do not want to share your home with these beetles all winter, what can you do?

Keep the beetles out. Use good quality silicone or latex caulk to seal cracks and small holes in exterior walls, especially around windows and doors. Install screening (20 mesh maximum) over all vents, and replace or repair damaged door and window screens. Leave screens on windows until Christmas. Install tight fitting door sweeps and a rubber seal around the garage door.

Use insecticides to reduce the number of beetles the home. Just before the first frost, spray around outside doors and windows with a pyrethroid (e.g. permethrin) insecticide labeled for exterior application. Look for additional openings, including cracks, crevices, and pipe chases, as well as holes through which electrical, phone, and cable lines enter the home. While spraying these holes will not prevent beetles going through them, the beetles will pick up enough toxicant to kill, them later.

Kill the beetles inside the home. If beetles are inside the home, operate a commercial black light trap in a dark room or at night. Place the light trap in the room with the highest beetle numbers. Leave the light on all night. Empty the collection container often. Put cornstarch, talc or baby powder on the "wings" of the trap so that the beetles fall easily into the collection container (otherwise, they will be able to climb off). The trap is free-standing and can sit on a table or floor. The trap can be purchased for \$140.00 plus shipping from Southeastern Insectaries, P O Box 1546, Perry, GA 31069. Phone: 1-877-967-6777 or 1-478 988-9412

While multi-colored Asian lady beetles can nip you with their mouthparts, causing a little pinch. They are harmless and cannot break the skin. When irritated they release a foul-smelling defensive fluid, which many people find objectionable. These beetles are excellent predators, spending their summers eating aphids, thrips, scales, and other pests on our plants. But large number of beetles in a home can be annoying, so it understandable that people would prefer to keep them outdoors.