

# Buckeye Lady Beetle Blitz Identification Guide

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**Ladybugs, or lady beetles** are beneficial predators that feed on aphids and other soft-bodied pests. In Ohio, several exotic and native species are present. Exotic species were introduced into the United States, either intentionally to provide pest control or accidentally through international trade. In recent years, many native Ohio lady beetles have declined. The loss of these species is detrimental to both biodiversity and pest control. We are asking for your help to census current populations of native and exotic lady beetles. By participating in the collection of lady beetle data, you are providing a critical step toward their conservation.

**Using this guide:** This card provides key features needed to identify 14 species of lady beetles that may be found in home landscapes. For each species the most important features to look for are bolded. Size is indicated as a circle next to the name of each species. Note that some of these species are very small, so look carefully for key features!

## How to Identify Lady Beetles

All lady beetles have three body segments: a **head**, **pronotum**, and abdomen. The abdomen is covered by the **wing covers** or elytra. The **head** is the front segment; it is very small and difficult to see. The **pronotum** is the middle segment, which looks like the head from above.



Patterns on the **pronotum** such as spots, bars, shapes, and even letters (see the W on the photo above!) are used for identification. Lady beetles have hard **wing covers**, which may be red, yellow, orange, or black, and are often, but not always spotted. Wing cover color and the number and arrangement of spots are often helpful in identifying lady beetles.

## Introduced Lady Beetle Species

Four species of exotic lady beetles are present in Ohio.

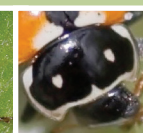


### Multi-colored Asian

Round. Many color forms exist, ranging from yellow to red. Diagnostic feature is a **white pronotum with a black M or W pattern depending on the viewing direction**.

May or may not have black spots on wing covers. This is the species that aggregates in homes during winter.

**Common**



### Variegated

Oval and red. **Distinctive pronotum with two small white spots and white border along front edge**. Border may extend back between the spots (examples of variability shown). Wing covers with variable spot number.

**Somewhat common**



### Seven-spotted

Round and red. Pronotum is black with large white spots on each side. **Seven black spots total—three on each wing cover and one central spot at the base of the pronotum**.

**Common**



### Fourteen-spotted

Round and yellow. Pronotum is black with white along the front edge. Approximately **14 black spots**, many connected.

**Spots are square-shaped**.

**Somewhat common**