



Most ladybird eggs are yellow to orange, shaped like grains, and laid in rafts.

Ladybird life stages

After hatching, most ladybird species pass through four immature stages before pupating and developing into the commonly recognised round orange beetle patterned with black spots or stripes. Both ladybird adults and larvae are predaceous, attacking a range of small insects and mites. Five of the species most commonly seen in broadacre crops are listed below, along with two smaller ladybird species that are also voracious predators.

Instars 1-4

Pupa

Adult

Large ladybirds (8 mm)

Three-banded ladybird
Harmonia octomaculata



Medium ladybirds (5-6 mm)

Transverse ladybird
Coccinella transversalis



Variable ladybird
Coelophora inaequalis



Variable ladybird adults display several different patterns

Small ladybirds (4 mm)

White collared ladybird
Hippodamia variegata



Striped ladybird
Micraspis frenata



The two-spotted and mealybug ladybirds are much smaller and their juvenile stages look different to the species above. Mealybug ladybirds often lay their eggs directly into mealybug egg masses.

Very small ladybirds (2-3 mm)

Minute two-spotted ladybird
Diomus notescens



Egg

Larva

Pupae

Adult

Mealybug ladybird
Cryptolaemus montrouzieri



Eggs

Young larva

Older larva

Pupa

Adult