

The 7-Spot Ladybird

Habitat Hero



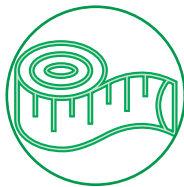
Common Name: The 7-Spot Ladybird
Irish Name: Bóin Dé
Scientific Name: Coccinella 7-punctata

Seen in Ireland:

Seen mostly **Spring** to **Autumn**.

But you may see some hibernating in Winter too, in a shed, or under wood.

They are widespread and **common**



They have a black body, under red wings, with 7 black dots, a black head and white markings and spots on either side of the eyes. They are usually about 6-8mm in length.



Ladybird can be found in a wide range of habitats and hedgerows, trees and grasslands. They can also be found along waterways in reed beds and wetlands.

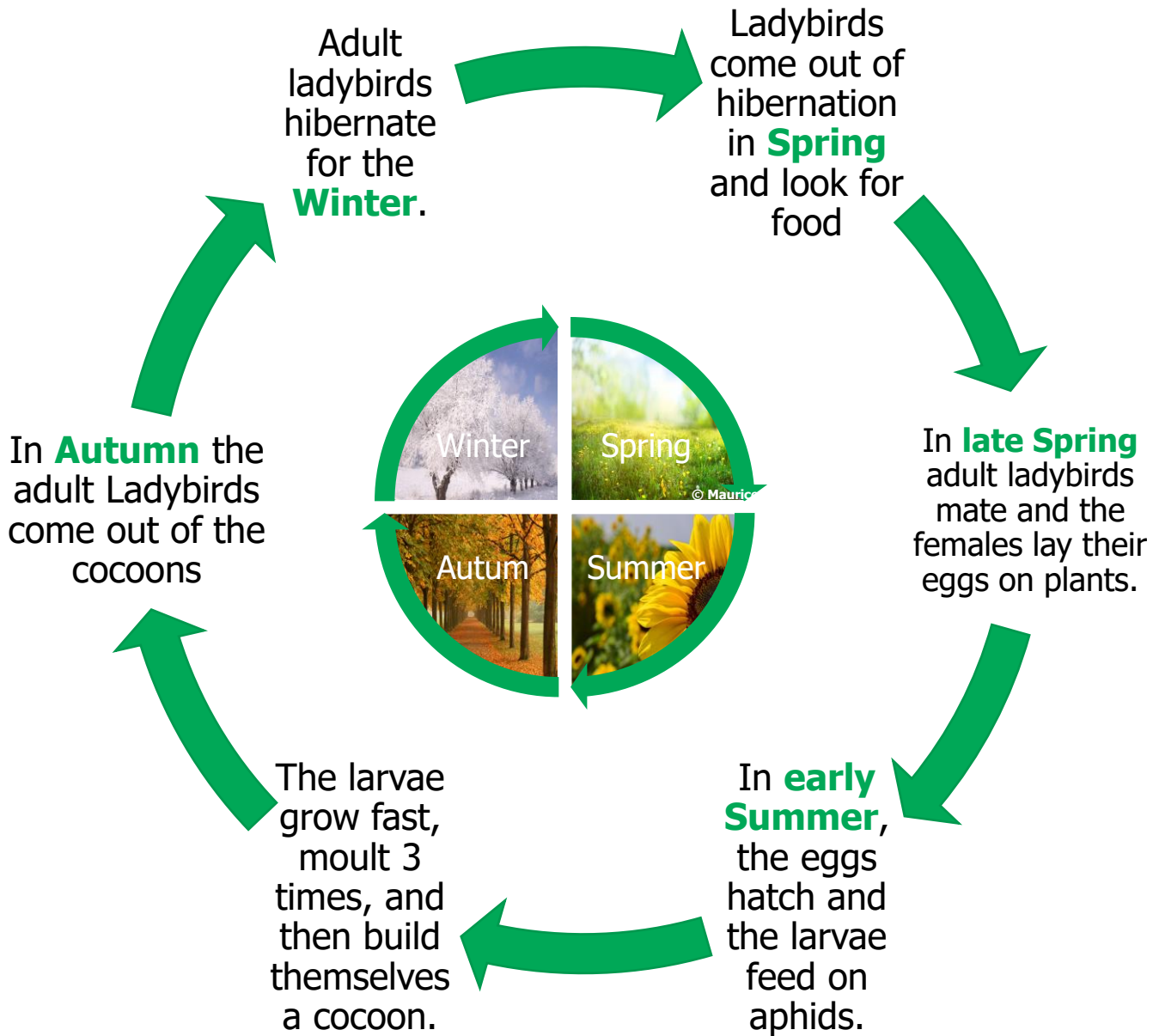


7-Spot Ladybirds eat aphids (plant lice).

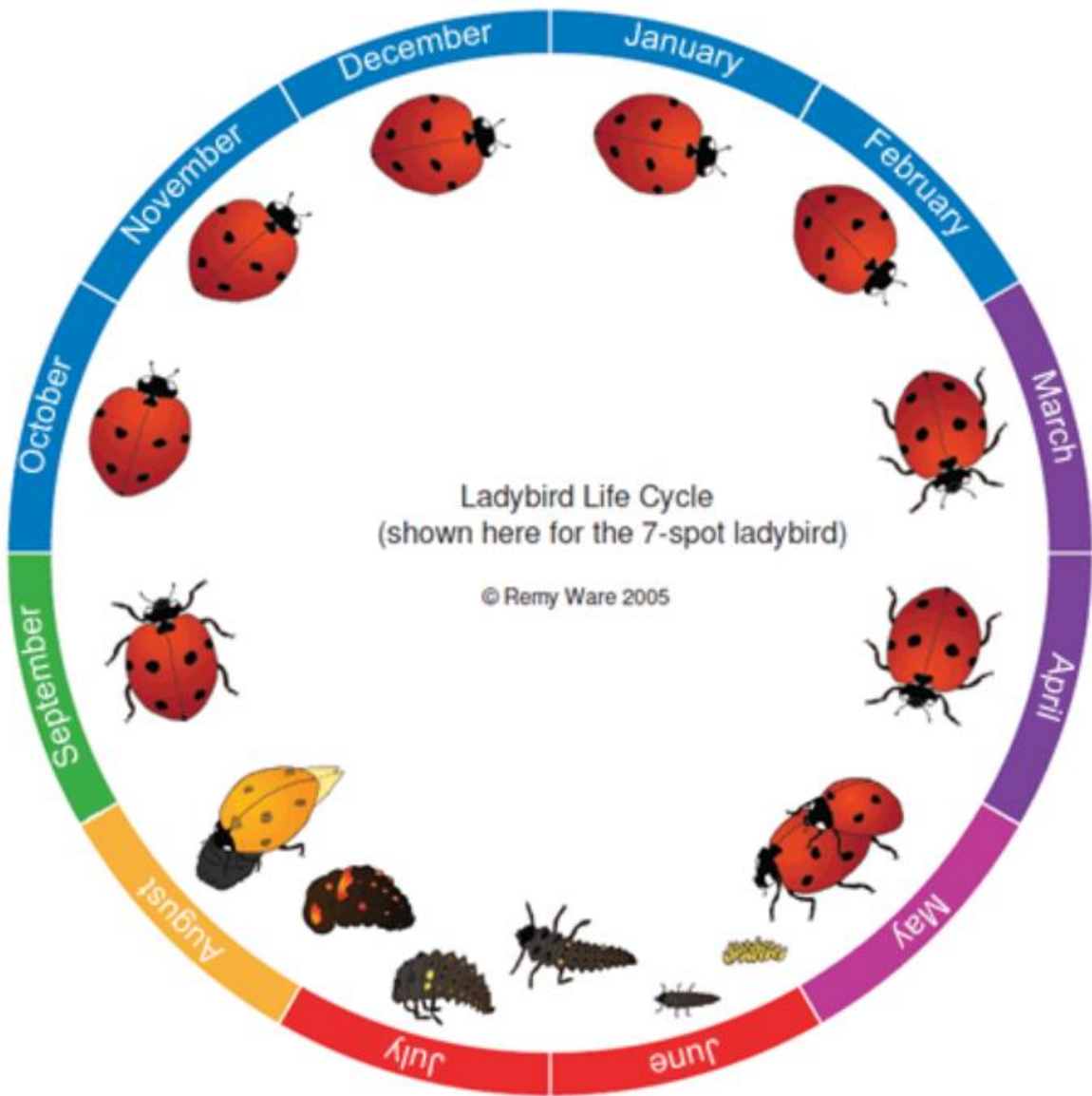


They usually live around one year, but some live up to 2 years.

The 7-Spot Ladybird Life Cycle



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www.coleoptera.org.uk/coccinellidae/ladybird-life-cycle

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Some more Facts:

- 'moulting' means they shed their old skin, and grow a new bigger one; just like us getting new clothes when we grow too big for our old ones
- The Irish name "Bóin Dé" means Little Cow of God!
- Ladybirds eat pest insects, such as aphids (plant lice). Gardeners and farmers love them, as they are a natural pest control for their fruit, vegetable and other crops.
- If attacked a ladybird will release a yellow poison from its 'knees'. Not only does this taste bad to birds and other animals, it also makes them feel very sick.
- The bright colours of many ladybirds actually act as a warning to predators that they taste bad and are poisonous.



- The Harlequin Ladybird: Scientific Name: *Harmonia axaridis*, is an invasive ladybird from Asia.
- It was first reported in Ireland in 2010.
- The Harlequin causes problems in the natural environment in that it has a wide dietary range, out-competing native ladybirds for their main food 'aphids' and even consuming other ladybird species' eggs and larvae.
- They can reproduce 3 times faster than most native ladybirds .
- They are a serious threat to our native species.