



Tips for Using Biological Control in the Landscape

Clifford S. Sadof
Purdue University

Reduce Pesticide Use

- Use cultural and mechanical controls to control pests.
- Use the lowest approved rate and reduce frequency of application.
- Spot treat or remove infested plants.
- Before applying a pesticide, monitor the natural enemies on the plant. If many biological control agents are controlling the pest, pesticide use may not be necessary.
- When using biorational pesticides, select those that are compatible with natural enemies of pests. See the table at the end of the book entitled Pesticide Compatibility with Biological Control.
- Use conventional, long-lasting pesticides as a last resort.

Know the Natural Enemies of Pests

- Learn to identify major groups of natural enemies.
- Be familiar with the biology of natural enemies. See the section entitled Beneficial Insects.
- Learn to recognize diseased or parasitized insects.

Provide Food Plants for the Natural Enemies

- Plant flowers that provide season-long sources of nectar and pollen.
- Refrain from using pesticides that kill non-target insects that feed generalist natural enemies.



Coleomegilla maculata, pink spotted lady beetle (or 12-spotted lady beetle) adult feeding on pollen. (317)
Photo: Jeff Hahn



Aphid mummies showing braconid wasp emergence holes. (341) Photo: John Davidson