

Ladybird (7 spot)

Coccinella 7-punctata

What to look for

Very familiar brightly coloured red/orange beetle

Seven black spots

Three on each wing case (elytra), the seventh at the front embracing both elytra

Larvae have lumpy grey-blue skin with yellow/orange spots at the sides of their abdomen



Where found

Widespread, in fields, parks, woods and gardens, feeding on aphids

When to look

Look out from March for hibernated adults emerging, and soon after for mating pairs



Did you know?

Insect hibernation is called 'diapause'

Ladybirds spend the winter asleep or 'dormant' nestled in dense vegetation or bark crevices. They hibernate in large groups, often piled on top of one another, to protect them from the worst of the weather

They emerge in spring to find a mate

Mating can take 3-9 hours

The 7-spot Ladybird is also a migratory species - large numbers fly in from the continent every year, boosting our native population

The bright colours of ladybirds warn predators that they are distasteful. They are also able to exude a pungent fluid to ward off ants, birds and people

The average 7-spot ladybird will eat more than 5,000 aphids in its year-long life

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