



Marin Master Gardeners

Information on Bug Habitats

1. Building a Bug Habitat
2. All About Ladybugs
3. Good Bugs, Bad Bugs
4. Bugs To Love
5. A Kid's Guide To Backyard Bugs

Building A Bug Habitat



Into a Clean, empty container



Place Grass

+



Twigs

+



Rocks



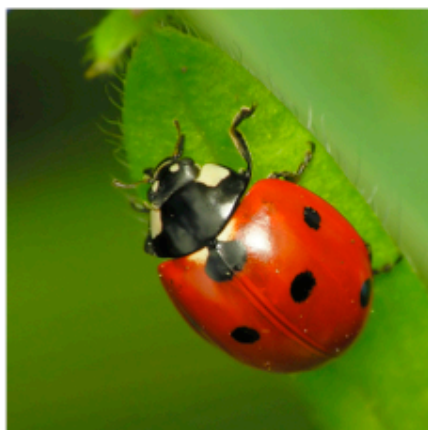
Add ladybug and close top.



Gently spray the grass with water every few days. Add leaves, flowers or live aphids for food.

Set ladybug free in your yard or garden in a few days.

ALL ABOUT LADYBUGS



The ladybird beetle or ladybug as we call them, is a beetle. There are more kinds of beetles than any other kind of animal.

Ladybugs are easy to recognize. All of them have a rounded body shape and are brightly colored red, yellow or orange with black dots. These colors warn predators, such as insect-eating birds, as well as dragonflies, ants, and tree frogs that ladybugs taste horrible.

The ladybug is a good bug. We want them in our yards, gardens, and fields. Farmers and gardeners appreciate ladybugs that feed on aphids and other insects that attack trees and crops. One ladybug can eat up to 50 aphids a day!

Ladybugs have 4 life stages. This process is called a complete metamorphosis. The ladybug lays up to 300 eggs in spring or summer in an aphid colony. The eggs hatch in 2-5 days. The newly hatched larvae, also known as grubs, feed on aphids for up to 3 weeks, then develop a hard case and enter a resting stage, pupae for one week. The ladybug emerges complete with long, jointed legs, wings and antennae. The wing cases develop spots after just a few hours.

Ladybugs do not build their own homes. They reside where insect pest populations are high.

Additional information: www.growninmarin.org