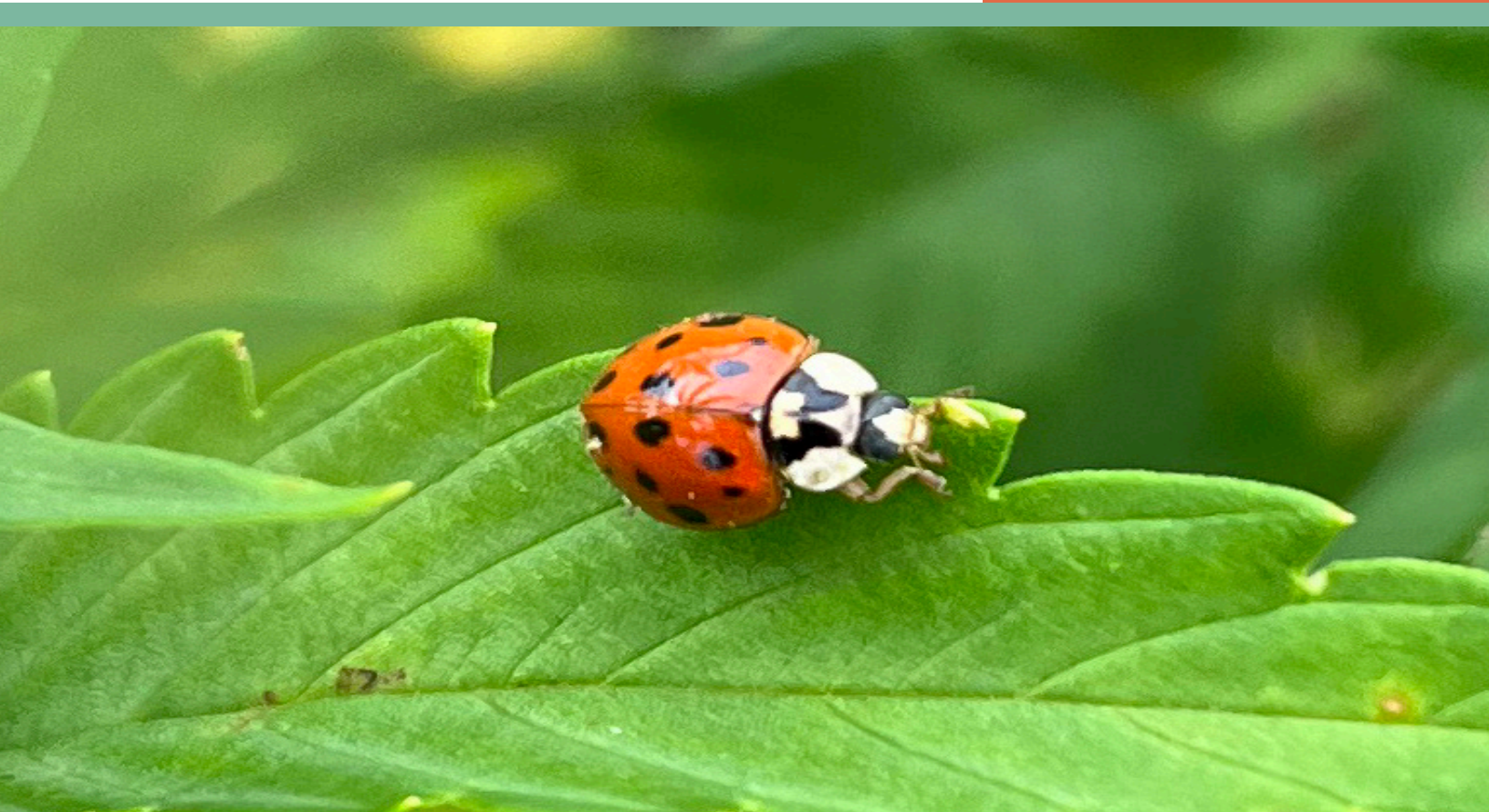


# LADY BEETLE

Coleoptera: Coccinellidae

Bug  
of the  
Month



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Lady beetles are one of the best-known beneficial predatory insects worldwide. They feed on soft-bodied insects such as aphids and mealybugs. They also feed on small insect larvae, eggs, and phytophagous mites, serving as effective biocontrol agents for a many agricultural crops.

Lady beetles are multivoltine (have many generations per year). Adults are round to oval, dome-shaped, and some species

are brightly colored. Larvae range from 0.09 to 0.33 inches in length and are dark in color with cream-colored lines. The pupa is cream-colored, oval with dark spots, and can measure 0.12 inches wide and 0.16 inches in length.

These insect predators can effectively control many pests that affect vineyards; however, their presence in grape clusters during harvest may affect wine's taste. That occurs mainly with *Harmonia*

*axyrid*, a species that excretes an unpleasant body liquid as a defense mechanism when threatened, thus contaminating the fruit. Furthermore, when *H. axyrid* individuals get crushed with grapes during juice processing, they impart a bitter sour and musty flavor. Therefore, their use as biocontrol agents should be avoided just prior to and during grape harvest.

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