

**EXPERIMENT: THE SECRET LIFE OF BUGS**

**AIM:** To discover what some Bugs do in my garden.

**WHY?** Our garden has Bugs that nature allows to help it garden grow and yet we always seem to be spraying our garden to kill Bugs. So lets put the sprays away and find out what a Good Bug can do to help our garden grow.

**METHOD:** Purchase direct from “Bugs for Bugs” a pack of 30 adult Ladybird Beetles, or Ladybird beetle eggs from <https://bugsforbugs.com.au/>.

This native Australian ladybird beetle is an entirely new biocontrol product. The application of this biocontrol agent is still in the research and development stage. So far where they have been observed in the field, they have proven themselves to be ferocious aphid predator.

Both adults and larvae feed on aphids, however the bulk of the predation is by the lava. Check each day for 4 weeks and then send in your results to [bees@beecafe.org](mailto:bees@beecafe.org)

**IMPORTANT DO NOT USE ANY INSECTICIDES OR LEAF SPRAYS DURING THE EXPERIMENT**

**PROCEDURE** (your steps to follow)

**STEP 1: INSPECT (SURVEY) YOUR GARDEN**

In your garden look for plants with signs of pest infestation. The signs are: -

- Brown spots on the leaves (scale and mealy bugs)
- Holes in leaves (caterpillars)
- Edges of leaves eaten away (Beetles)
- Yellow blotchy leaves, Leaf curl or poor flower development, Look closely for tiny (2mm long) green or yellow aphids under the leaves and on the outer new plant stem. (aphids)

Take a photo or draw a map of your garden where the infestations are. Copy this onto the attached experimenter’s log.

**STEP 2:** Release your adult Ladybirds or eggs according to Bugs for Bugs instructions. If the weather is unusually cold (less than 15 degrees C), then store them on the middle shelf of your kitchen fridge. This will not kill them but allow you a few days to find where you will release them in your garden.

**STEP 3:** Once a week inspect your garden. Write and changes to your plants and if you can do a count of each type of insect you find. Write down what you observe. NOTE: If you start with only adults being released, also look for clusters of tiny yellow Ladybird beetle eggs.

**STEP 4:** After 5 weeks and again 10 weeks write what you observe has happened. QUESTION: Has the number of Bad Bugs that is aphids, been reduced?

Copy your conclusion and results then email these to: - [bees@beecafe.org](mailto:bees@beecafe.org)

Welcome to using Bug science to grow your garden.

**Resources**

## Books

- *Garden Guardians* by Jane Davenport
  - <https://ecoorganicgarden.com.au/>

Email your map and experiment diary to [bees@beecafe.org](mailto:bees@beecafe.org)

