

## Convergent Lady Beetle

The **convergent lady beetle** (*Hippodamia convergens*) is often the insect predator that is most commonly noted in hemp. One of about 80 species of lady beetles found in Colorado this native insect can be found in almost any crop grown in the state.

The stage that survives winter is the adult “ladybug” form, which become active in late spring. Where they find sources of food for their young – typically colonies of aphids – they will lay eggs. The eggs, laid on leaves and stems in the form of small masses (ca. 5-30), are yellow and spindle-shaped. The larvae that hatch from the eggs are grayish with prominent eggs and they search plants for prey. Later stage larvae are often marked with yellow or orange and may have purplish background colors.

The larvae are generalist predators that feed on small insects such as aphids, leafhopper nymphs, plant bugs, and young larvae of caterpillars or beetles. Through most of the growing season all stages of this insect may be present (eggs, larvae, pupae, adults) although the highly visible adults are usually the only stage one may notice in the crop.

The **multicolored Asian lady beetle** (*Harmonia axyridis*) and the **sevenspotted lady beetle** (*Coccinella septempunctata*) have also been observed to develop within hemp fields when large numbers of aphids are present.



**Adult (upper left) and larva (lower right) of the convergent lady beetle**



**Pupa (top) and late stage larvae of convergent lady beetle**



**Lady beetle egg mass**

Coleoptera: Coccinellidae