



**Q: I have ladybugs coming into my house in large numbers. Where are they coming from, and what can I do to get rid of them?**

**A:** Each fall we get calls from residents who have large numbers of ladybugs coming into their homes seeking shelter for the winter. Beetle flights are heaviest on sunny days following a period of cooler weather, when temperatures return to at least the mid-60s. These swarming ladybugs don't bite, sting, carry human disease, or feed on wood, clothing or food. Although harmless to humans, they benefit farmers and gardeners. Ladybugs come into buildings through small cracks around windows, doorways and under clapboards. The best way to manage the beetles is to prevent them from coming in, by caulking small cracks and repairing damaged clapboards, window and door trims. Try to look at a lady-beetle infestation as a temporary fall annoyance. If you do have an infestation, you can easily collect the beetles with a vacuum cleaner or gently sweep them up and release them outdoors. (Remember to empty the bag outside after vacuuming). No pesticides are registered for use against lady beetles in New Hampshire.

Got questions? UNH Cooperative Extension's Family, Home & Garden Education Center Info Line offers practical help finding answers for your lawn and garden questions. Call toll free at 1-877-398-4769, M-F, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., and W 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., or e-mail us at [answers@unh.edu](mailto:answers@unh.edu)