

Sampling Instructions

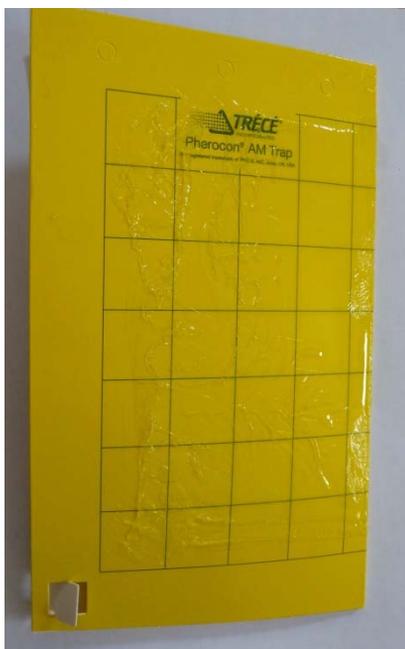
Thank you for your participation and welcome to the BLBB volunteer network! Below are step-by-step instructions describing how to collect your lady beetle data using a yellow sticky card trap.



- 1. Select your sampling site:** Lady beetle data can be collected from a food or flower garden of any size either at your home, or at a second location you have permission to access.
- 2. Mark your calendar:** We will collect data twice during the summer, in June and August. During each month you will collect lady beetles for 7 days. For both collections, you have two weeks to pick from. Please select **one** of the two weeks, do not leave your sticky card up for the entire period.

For the June sample, please collect your data from either June 14-20, or June 21-27. For the August sample, please collect from either August 16-22, or August 23-29.

- 3. Set up sampling equipment:** You will begin collecting data on either June 14 or June 21. In the center of your selected garden plot secure your step-in post. Open your sticky card and use the tab at the bottom to fold it in half. Hang the card from the post using the twist ties, attach the card to the first and third loop on the post as illustrated below.

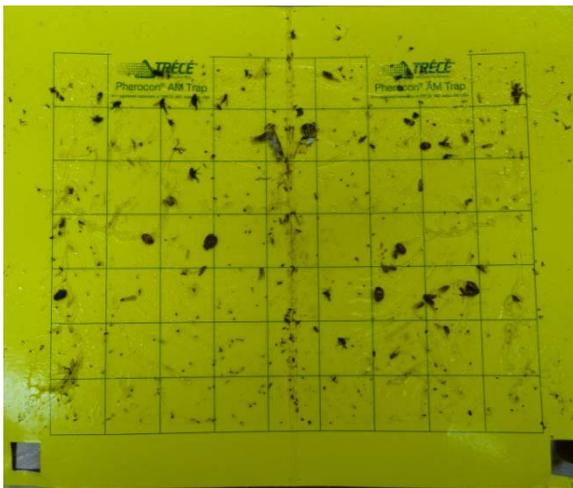


Note – If children are assisting, make sure to help them open and attach the sticky card. The glue is not harmful but is very sticky! If you get glue on your hands it will come off with soap and water.

- 4. Now we wait:** Once you set up your sampling equipment sit back and relax, or get back to gardening! Allow the sticky card to collect lady beetles for 7 days (Sunday – Saturday)

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- 5. Collecting your sticky card:** On day 7 collect your card and take it to a location where you can examine it closely. Access to a good desk light will help you find and identify the beetles.
- 6. Examine your sticky card carefully:** The sticky card will be covered with insects. However, there will only be a few lady beetles. Examine each square carefully. Note that some lady beetles may be stuck upside down (see below), and small species will be difficult to see.



After 7 days in the garden, your sticky trap will be covered with insects. Examine the card carefully, above a convergent lady beetle is shown upside down and upright on a sticky card.

- 7. Record the data:** Using your identification guide, determine the lady beetle species present on your sticky card. Record the data on the data sheet provided. In your toolkit we also included an example data sheet, please refer to this if you have any questions about how to record data.
- 8. Send us your data sheet and sticky card:** Once you have examined your sticky card and filled out the corresponding data sheet *please mail both the sticky card and data sheet* to us in the pre-addressed and stamped mailer. We have provided a mailer for both the June and August collections. We cannot wait to see your data, so please send your materials as soon as possible!
- 9. Why send the data sheet and sticky card:** Why do we want both the data sheet and the insects? Good question. First, we will compile all of the information from the data sheets to determine the status of native and exotic lady beetles across the state. Second, we will check all identifications to determine if the materials provided helped you identify the lady beetles you found. We will use this information to improve our materials for 2010, or if necessary before the August data collection. Third, all lady beetles will be removed from cards for use in a genetic study examining the state of their populations in Ohio. Finally, we will identify the other insects on the cards to see what types of pests and beneficial insects (in addition to lady beetles) are found in Ohio gardens.
- 10. Compare your site with the network:** Interested in how your site compares with others in the network? We will post the data collected at each site on our webpage. Sites will be labeled with the ID number printed on your folder and sticky traps. Your name and address will not be published on the website. We will send out an email to all participants when new data are posted.