

Invasive Species

Asian Ladybug

Harmonia axyridis

Where It Came From

Imported in the 1970s to eat aphids, the Asian ladybug did a great job saving the pecan orchards in the southeastern United States from the damaging pests.

Where It Invaded

But then they spread up the coast, eating hungrily as they went.

Its Effect

Soon they had eaten so many aphids that the ladybugs native to the U.S. started to go hungry. When aphid numbers dropped, the Asian ladybugs then went on to eat the other ladybugs! It is now thought that the nine-spotted lady beetle might be extinct in its native home of New York.

Solutions

None yet!

