



# Need to Know

- Straight talk for professionals about pests and pest control products

Volume 2  
Issue 16  
Date: August 18, 2005

## Management of Multicolored Asian Lady Beetles

*This pest is now on the Suspend® SC label!*

Lady beetles are normally considered beneficial insects, however, the multicolored Asian lady beetle (MALB), *Harmonia axyridis* Pallas, has become a major nuisance pest throughout the Midwest, and other parts of the U.S. and Canada. In the fall, they invade structures in great numbers and continue to appear throughout the winter as they migrate from attics and other harborage sites.



The multicolored Asian lady beetle is similar to other lady beetles, but with a black "M" on the thorax.

### Pest Management

Pest management professionals can provide effective control of these troublesome pests. It's best to prevent MALB entry, since it's much more difficult to manage them once they have gotten inside. An effective management program includes exclusion, vacuuming and residual insecticide applications.

**Exclusion:** Prevent large numbers of beetles from entering structures by sealing exterior gaps and cracks around windows, doors, eaves, roofs, siding and other potential points of entry. Instruct customers to repair damaged doors, vent screens and window screens. Tight-fitting door sweeps and rubber seals around garage doors can also be installed to prevent pest entry.

**Exterior Insecticide Application:** Insecticide applications are often required, despite attempts to seal out MALB. Suspend SC provides an effective barrier, preventing the beetles from entering. Make applications to areas around doors and windows, under eaves, along rooflines and around foundations. Use the high labeled rate for longer residual control. Timing of applications (usually late summer and early fall) and thorough coverage are essential for effective management of MALB. For best results, make applications when beetles first begin to appear on structures. Check with your local extension service for information on proper timing of applications.

**Interior Treatment:** If insects are already inside, the most practical way to remove beetles is to vacuum or sweep them up. Glue boards may also be used to control insects inside the structure. Persistent problems with MALB inside can be eliminated by spot treatments of Suspend SC to areas frequented by the beetles. Wall voids, where the beetles harbor, can be treated effectively with insecticide dusts like Tempo® 1% Dust or DeltaDust®.



Spot treatment is effective in areas frequented by MALB.



**BACKED**  
by **BAYER™**



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### Research Results

An efficacy study comparing pyrethroid insecticides against MALB was conducted in 2001 by The Ohio State University, IPM Program (<http://ipm.osu.edu/lady/icup.htm>). High labeled rates of each insecticide treatment were applied to vinyl siding. Treated surfaces were aged outdoors during August and September. Five beetles were placed on treated surfaces for 1 hour, removed to untreated petri dishes and observed for mortality at 24 hours. At 21 days after treatment, Suspend SC and Demand<sup>®</sup> CS provided greater than 95% mortality of beetles. This was followed by Talstar<sup>®</sup> (>80% mortality) and Demon<sup>®</sup> EC at 40% mortality (Figure 1).

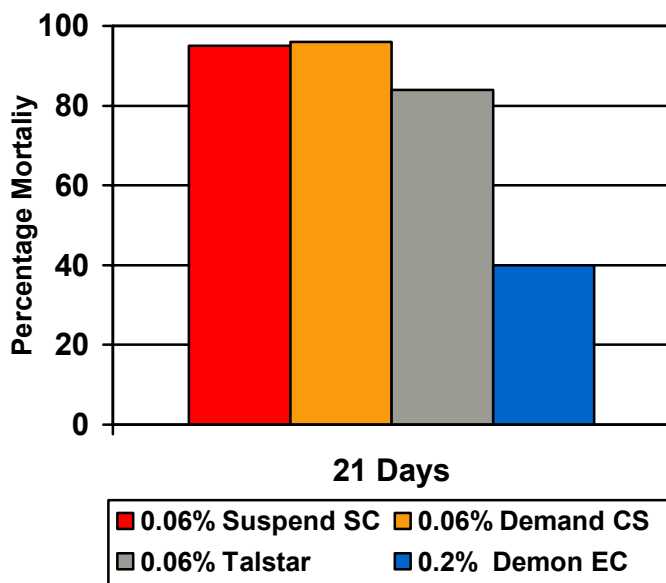


Figure 1. Efficacy of pyrethroids against MALB (data from Ohio State University Extension web site).

In 2004, another efficacy study with Suspend SC was conducted at the Bayer Environmental Science Technical Center, Clayton, N.C. Treatments were applied to vinyl siding and allowed to dry overnight. The treated surfaces were aged in a greenhouse up to 80 days. A total of 10 MALB were exposed to the treated surfaces for 1 hour. Beetles were removed and placed in clean containers. They were observed for mortality at 24 hours after exposure. Results in this study were similar to the Ohio State study.

Suspend SC provided long residual activity (80 days) against MALB (Figure 2). Based on these studies, we recommend that professionals use Suspend SC for treatments against MALB.

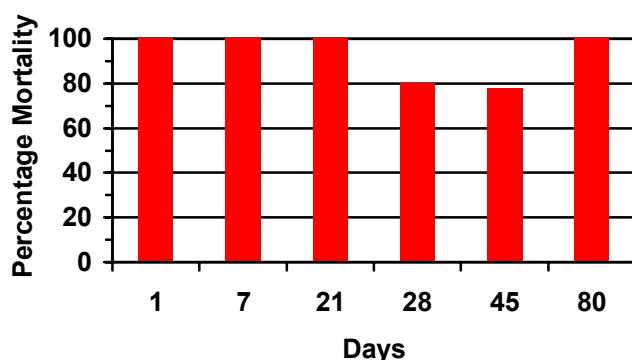


Figure 2. Residual control of MALB with Suspend SC (data provided by Bayer Environmental Science Technical Center).

### References

- Hedges, S. 2004. Occasional invaders & overwintering pests, pp. 1028-1097. *In: Mallis Handbook of Pest Control, 9<sup>th</sup> Ed.* S.A. Hedges and D. Moreland, Eds. GIE Media, Inc., Cleveland, OH.
- Holper, J. 2004. Beetle invasion. *PCT.* 32(7): 42, 44.
- McKenna, L. 2004. Alien attack. *PCT.* 32(7): 35, 36, 38, 40.
- The Ohio State University Extension web site – [ipm.osu.edu/lady/lady.htm](http://ipm.osu.edu/lady/lady.htm).

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