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Insects are important creatures in the natural world because they pollinate plants. In the Fulham Palace walled garden, where produce is cultivated, we are pleased to see larvae and insects that do not eat living vegetation or are carnivores.

Can you name any of the larvae and insects below? Use the table on the next page to match the pictures with the names.

Whilst all insects have a role to play in the ecosystem, some are more beneficial to a cultivated garden, such as Fulham Palace walled garden, than others.

INSECT	Larvae	Adult	EATS
Ladybird- 2, 7 & 14 spot 	Carnivore	Carnivore	A cute, native, flying beetle that eats aphids (greenfly & black fly) and other small insects or larvae. Comes in a variety of colours.
Cabbage White Butterfly 	Herbivore	Herbivore	Beautifully white, fluttering butterfly but eats cabbage and other types of "green" vegetables.
Ladybird Larvae 	Carnivore	Carnivore	Voracious larvae, which love aphids and the adults, will tackle larger insects too. These larvae have the orange dots of the 7 spot Ladybird. Our native species of Ladybird needs help!
Green Lacewing 	Carnivore	Carnivore	Beautifully elegant, flying insect, which loves aphids and other small insects and will often search flowers for a meal.
Colorado Beetle 	Herbivore	Herbivore	Pretty little, flying beetle that decimates potato and tomato plants. It has developed resistance to pesticides.
Soldier Beetle 	Carnivore	Carnivore	The slender and bold coloured Soldier Beetle has a dark body base to complement their red tones. As larvae and adults are voracious eaters of insects. The adults fly.
Earwig 	Herbivore	Herbivore	A useful, reluctant to fly insect, is more seen at night, moving amongst decaying matter.
Green Shield Back 	Herbivore	Herbivore	A bright green, squat insect that moves as larva between plants and as an adult flies to food. Feeds on a wide variety of leaves and flowers.
Violet Ground Beetle 	Carnivore	Carnivore	The shiny, flightless, Violet Ground Beetle is nocturnal. The larvae and adults eat worms, snails, slugs and other insects.
Wild Honey Bee 	Pollen & Honey	Pollen & Honey	The Busy Wild Honey Bee differs from wasps by having a black face and less bright yellow stripes and the tail is rounded.
Common Wasp 	Carnivore - adult feed larvae	Omnivore	The yellow and black faced adults cut up insects to feed to the larvae. Adults feed on nectar, honeydew of aphids, rotting fruit sap.
Cabbage White Larvae 	Herbivore	Herbivore	An absolute pest to the vegetable gardener as it eats all kinds of cabbage & broccoli as well as stocks and nasturtiums.
Common Centipede 	Carnivore	Carnivore	These shiny, brown toned insects live in the damp areas and will eat slugs and insects far larger than themselves. They poison their prey with a bite. The difference between a centipede and millipede is that the former has 1 leg per body section and the latter 2.
Harlequin Ladybird 	Carnivore	Carnivore	The multi, spotted Harlequin Ladybird beetle is larger than our native species and eats most insects, including our native ladybirds.

Banded Demoiselle Fly 	Carnivore Lives in water	Carnivore	These exquisite insects are beautiful with their metallic sheen – male is blue and the female green. Adults eat flying insects.
Harlequin Ladybird larvae 	Carnivore	Carnivore	The Harlequin Ladybird is an import species. The larvae eat insects, including our 2, 7, & 14 spot, native species. The larvae are distinct by having an orange oblong on the back.
Pill Wood Louse 	Rotting Wood & Matter	Rotting Wood & Matter	The Pill and Common Wood Louse are night time foragers for rotting matter. The Pill Wood Louse can roll into a ball for protection.
"Leather Jacket" Larvae 	Herbivore	Rarely Feed	The wiggly, Leather Jacket larvae, is the young of the Crane Fly and they destroy the roots of plants as well as eating decaying matter.
Cardinal Click Beetle 	Rotting Wood	Carnivore	Striking red, long bodied, flying beetle. If on its back, will move itself to its legs with a click. Hunts amongst leaves and flowers for food.
Aphids 	Herbivore	Herbivore	Greenfly and Black Fly can coat plants where they suck sap from the host plant. Many other insects eat Aphids but ants milk them.
Vine Weevil 	Herbivore	Herbivore	Vine Weevil adults are distinguished by their long "nose" (rostrum). The larvae feed on roots, whilst the flightless adults come out at night to feed on leaves.
Mint Leaf Beetle 	Herbivore	Herbivore	The flightless, Mint Leaf Beetle, is a beauty, with its iridescent green rounded body, which along with its black larvae eats plants of the mint family.
Marmalade Hoverfly 	Carnivore	Nectar	The Marmalade Hoverfly larvae gorge on aphids during the night. The orange, striped adults pollinate plants and eat nectar.
Glow-Worm 	Carnivore	Do Not Feed	The Glow-Worm larvae are avid, night time, eater of snails. The adults do not feed and live to mate. Flightless females attract attention of a flying male, by emitting a green light from its body.

Reference sources, Collins Complete Guide to British Wildlife, BBC Wildlife, BBC Country File Website, RSH website

Questions

- 1) What colours do the native species of Ladybirds adopt?
- 2) Which insects are carnivorous as larvae as well as when adults?

Answers

Answer to Question 1:- Red or red/orange with black spots, black with red spots, yellow with black spots, gold/yellow- no spots, brown cream spot, orange cream streak and brown cream striped.

Answer to Question 2:- Harlequin ladybird, common centipede, common wasp, violet ground beetle, soldier beetle, green lacewing, ladybird larvae, ladybird 2, 7 & 14 spot.

