

Predatory Mite for Thrips Control in Plants

*Predatory mites, scientifically known as *Amblyseius cucumeris*, are now commonly referred to as *Neoseiulus cucumeris*. These small, light-colored predatory mites can be used to control thrips infestations on various crops.*



Target Crops

All plants affected by thrips.

What are Thrips?

Thrips are small, elongated, flying insects that can come in various colors, from very light to very dark. They lay their eggs inside plant leaves, where small, elongated larvae emerge after a few days. Thrips cause small, silvery spots to appear on the leaves, often accompanied by tiny black dots that are actually their excrement. In cases of severe infestation, the plant's growth may be stunted.

What are Thrips Predators?

Thrips Predatory mites are small, light-colored mites that feed on thrips larvae. They are supplied in a bottle with a spreading material that can be dispersed over the leaves of affected plants. They hunt thrips larvae, although adult thrips are also targeted. These mites lay eggs near thrips colonies and in the pollen of flowers, so young predatory mites are close to their food source. Predatory mites can also be released in environments with strong artificial lighting.



Dosage:

Preventative or light infestation: 100 to 250 predatory mites per m ²	Severe infestation: 250 to 500 predatory mites per m ²
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Instructions for use:

Predatory mites can be easily distributed by sprinkling the fine spreading material directly from the bottle onto the leaves:

- Place the bottle horizontally to allow the mites to spread evenly within the bottle.
- Tilt and rotate the bottle several times to mix the mites well in the carrier material.
- Open the bottle and sprinkle the carrier material on the plants to be treated, continuously rotating the bottle to maintain an even distribution of mites in the carrier material.
- Place the empty bottle within the crop to ensure any remaining mites are not lost.

Additional information

At 30°C, thrips populations develop rapidly, making control more challenging. Predatory mites work best in environments with a relative humidity above 70% and temperatures over 20°C. These mites do not enter dormancy and can therefore be used year-round.

Chemical treatments

If chemical treatments were applied in the period before releasing predatory mites, the mites may be adversely affected. Avoid using any pesticides for at least 6 weeks prior to introducing the mites. Cleaning agents, however, may be used during this period. While using predatory mites, avoid chemical treatments or natural sprays on the plants or crops, as these also impact the mites, rendering them ineffective.

Packaging

Predatory mites are available in bottles containing sawdust mixed with approximately 25,000 mites.

Storage Conditions

Release as soon as possible upon receipt. They can be stored for up to 2 days at a temperature between 10-15°C.