

Predatory mites for the control of Spider Mites

These spider mite predators are small red mites of the species *Phytoseiulus persimilis* that can be used to control spider mites (*Tetranychus urticae*) on various crops.



Target Crops

All plants that suffer from spider mites.

What are spider mites?

Spider mites are small, cream-colored creatures about 0.5 mm in size, generally found on the underside of plant leaves. The mites feed on the cells of the leaf, causing light-colored spots to appear. An infestation is usually first visible near the main vein. In severe infestations, the mites can also be found in the buds and flowers of the plants, often creating very fine webs in which the mites can be seen moving around.

What are Predatory mites?

Predatory mites (*Phytoseiulus persimilis*) are small red mites that feed on spider mites. They come in a bottle with a carrier material that can be distributed over the leaves of infested plants. They prefer to hunt the larvae of the spider mites, but adult mites are not safe from them either. They lay eggs near spider mite colonies so that the young predatory mites are close to their food source. Predatory mites can also be released under strong artificial lighting.

Dosage:

Preventive or light infestation:

100 to 250 predatory mites per M²

Severe infestation:

250 to 500 predatory mites per M²



Instructions for use:

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

- Place the bottle horizontally so that the predatory mites can distribute evenly inside the bottle.
- Hold the bottle at an angle and rotate it several times to evenly distribute the predatory mites in the carrier material.
- Open the bottle and sprinkle the carrier material onto the plants to be treated. Continue rotating the bottle while releasing to keep the predatory mites evenly distributed in the carrier material.
- Place the empty bottle among the plants so that any remaining predatory mites are not lost.

Additional information

At 25°C, the predatory mite develops twice as fast as the spider mite and can quickly bring a spider mite population under control. However, low humidity can significantly hinder the development of the predatory mite. Predatory mites work best at a relative humidity above 70% and temperatures above 20°C. The predatory mites do not enter diapause and can therefore be used throughout the year.

Chemical Products

If chemical products have been used in the period before releasing predatory mites, the mites may be affected. No pesticides should be used for at least 6 weeks before releasing the predatory mites. Cleaning products can still be used during this period. During the use of predatory mites, you cannot use chemical products or natural sprays on the plants or crops, as these will also affect the predatory mites, preventing them from doing their job.

Packaging

Predatory mites are available in bottles filled with sawdust, two sizes are available containing either approximately 1.000 or 2.000 mites

Storage

Release as soon as possible after receipt. Can be stored for a maximum of 4 days at a temperature of 8-10°C.