**PRODUCT INFORMATION SHEET**

**Tenodera aridifolia sinensis**

**Praying Mantis**

**Size Available:**
- 1 Egg Case
- 3 Egg Cases
- 10 Egg Cases
- Egg case with hatching chamber

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### Product:

1 egg case containing 50 to 400 eggs with an average of 200 eggs. Praying mantis are a general garden predator and will eat what they can catch, both good and bad bugs. Mantis stake out a territory and hunt by stealth, catching anything that is small enough to eat that comes into their territory. Mantis is cannibalistic, so as soon as they hatch they begin to disperse quickly. Mantis is well camouflaged and very secretive so it is difficult to find them among your plants. Later in the season when they have grown and sit in their territories you may be lucky enough to spot one. These insects do not bite people, damage plants, or spread disease. There is only one generation per season.

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### Release Outdoors:

1. Place the egg case outside when temperatures are warm (above 10°C/50°F) and insects are flying. The egg case should be placed in the garden (2 to 5 feet above the ground). Place the egg case on a shrub or plant, not directly in the sun, but where it will receive some moisture from regular watering of plants.

2. BE PATIENT. The egg case will hatch when it is ready to hatch, it can take 4 – 8 weeks. When the egg case hatches, it only takes 1 – 2 hours for many babies Mantis to emerge and disperse. The egg case does not change.

**Note:** Place outside once egg case can be camouflaged by foliage otherwise, Eggs cases can be placed outside in late winter/early spring maybe eaten by mammals. This is not harmful to mammals, but this prevents egg case from hatching.

**Note:** If you would like to store, place inside the crisper of your fridge until temperature are above 10°C/50°F.

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### Release Indoors:

**Option A:** You will need 1 container, it can be an old aquarium or plastic jar, netting to cover the container opening, string or rubber band, a pin, twig and misting bottle.

1. Cut a piece of netting to fit over the opening of your container/jar.
2. Attach the egg case to the twig by either pinning the open end of the mesh tube the egg case is shipped in or by pinning the top part of the egg case on to the twig. It is important to pin the egg case at least 5 cm above the floor of the cage.
3. Put netting over the opening of the jar and secure with rubber band or string.
4. Place container in a warm spot, not directly in the sun.
5. Mist daily, this is very important. You do not want your egg case to dry out.
7. Once hatched enjoy the event, and then let the mantis go in you garden. The mantis can be keep as insect pets or long as you can supply an ongoing food source for them.
OPTION B
1 Use a brown paper bag (lunch bag size )
2 Place egg case in the bottom of bag
3 Fold bag horizontally from top down three times
4 Tape bag onto window that receives sun
5 Ideal amount of sun on window is half to ¾ of the day
6 Mist cocoon everyday trying to simulate morning dew
7 Once a week give the cocoon a good soaking simulating a spring rain storm
8 Check bag regularly if they hatch and you do not know they will perish
9 Once hatched immediately release baby pray-mantis outside

Rate:
1 egg case covers an area up to 1000 ft²
3 egg cases covers an area up to 3,000 ft²
10 egg cases covers an area up to 10,000 ft²

Temperatures:
Mantis will thrive in temperatures ranging from 20 to 38°C

Life Cycle:

**EGGS:** Mantis eggs are in an egg case attached to low weeds, shrubs etc. The egg case is laid as a frothy container that quickly hardens and contains from 50 to 400 eggs. As with most insects many hatch but few survive.

**NYMPHS:** When baby Mantis first emerge from the egg case they are very small (0.5cm). As they dry, their arms and legs unravel and once on their feet they sit to complete drying for a short time. When drying is complete the Mantis quickly disperses before they become food for their brothers and sisters. An immature Mantis looks just like an adult Mantis except much smaller in size.

**ADULTS:** Both males and females can fly; males are better flyers because they are lighter and use this ability to seek females for breeding. In late summer the Mantis mate, the smaller males are sometimes killed by the female during mating. His body is the necessary food source for egg development. The females can lay from 1 to 4 egg cases before the season ends. Praying Mantis overwinters as an egg case.

**Did you Know:** Where did our Praying Mantis come from? At around 1896 this species was accidentally introduced by a nurseryman at Mt. Airy near Philadelphia, PA. This species can be now found throughout North America.

For further Information Contact: NATURAL INSECT CONTROL, 3737 Netherby Road, Stevensville, Ontario, L0S 1S0 905-382-2904; 905-382-4418 (Fax); info@nicniagara.com

For further Information on Praying Mantis Egg cases go to www.naturalinsectcontrol.com

See our video on this product: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D1fWD46_oJA