PRODUCT INFORMATION SHEET

APHID PREDATOR – “A GREAT GENERAL PREDATOR!”

(Chrysopa carnea & Chrysoperia rutilabris: Green Lacewing – Larvae)

Product:
Green Lacewing Adults - shipped as pre-fed larvae in “honeycomb” rearing units called frames. Each larva is enclosed in a cell with a small supply of food. One frame may contain 750 to 1000 larvae.

The common Green Lacewing is widely used in various situations to control many different pests. Most species of the adult lacewing do not kill pest insects, but subsist on pollen and nectar. It is the offspring that do the job! Adults are a green, fragile insect approximately 2cm in length, with a small head, large eyes and transparent net wings. The female lays her eggs on foliage, each on top of hair-like filaments. After a few days the egg will hatch and a tiny larvae emerges which is also known as the “aphid lion” because of its voracious appetite. Similar in appearance to an alligator with pincers, the aphid lion vigorously attacks its prey, injects a paralyzing venom, and draws out the body fluids of its helpless victim. It is known to be cannibalistic if no other food source is available. During the 2-3 weeks in this stage, it will devour up to 200 victims a week. It will then pupate by spinning a cocoon with silken thread, and approx. 5 days later the adult lacewing emerges to repeat the life cycle. Depending on climatic conditions, the adult will live for about 4-6 weeks. A food source is necessary or they will leave the area. Since one female can deposit up to 200 eggs, use Beneficial Insect Food (available from NIC), to provide the adults with the necessary nutrition required to reproduce.

Target:
Lacewings are a beneficial predatory insect that attacks insects and insect eggs such as aphids, small caterpillars, mites, whitefly, scale, mealybug, thrips leafhoppers, and other soft-bodied insects.

Release:
For best results, release immediately in early morning or late afternoon. Releasing the larvae is done by pulling back the organdy a little bit at a time, and tapping the larvae out of the cells onto the target area. You can also use the hairs of a brush (eg. Small paintbrush), to delicately “flick” them out of their cells. The brown substance you may notice in the frame are frozen moth eggs that will not hatch(left-over food).

Rate:
For interiorscapes use 1 frame per 500ft² (46.5m²). In gardens use 1 frame per 2500ft² (232m²), and for field crops use 5 frames per 1 acre (40ha).

Temperature:
Average temperatures for larvae and adults range from 60o-80oF (16o-28oC), with a relative humidity of 20-80%. 60oF (16oC) is the minimum temperature required for eating and egg-laying.

Notes:
- Lacewing eggs and adults are also available through NIC. Please ask us!