THRIP PREDATOR
Amblyseius degenerans

Product: *Amblyseius degenerans* is a small (0.7mm), dark brown predatory mite. It is very mobile, and thanks to its dark colouring, this mite is conspicuous when walking on a leaf or in the flower. The female deposits her eggs on the undersides of the leaves, close to the main vein. In the short larval stage, the mite hardly moves and does not eat. During the two subsequent nymphal stages and during the adult stage, this predatory mite is continuously moving to look for prey. This mite can be found on the leaves but prefers to stay more on the flower, where it can build up a population on pollen only.

Degenerans are shipped as adults in shaker bottles with vermiculite.

Target: *A. degenerans* prefers thrips larvae but will also feed on broad & spider mites, and pollen. Thrips are tiny long-bodied insects that move very quickly. Both larvae and adults are quite similar in appearance (a small "worm" with legs), but adults do have wings and can fly. Some species of thrips pupate in the soil, while others pupate directly inside leaf tissue. The two most common harmful species of thrips are the onion thrips and the Western flower thrips. Thrips damage the crop by withdrawing the plant cell fluids. Empty cells are filled with air causing a silvery appearance, on which dark spots (the excrements) are visible. In addition to discolouration, thrips damage also includes deformation of fruits and vegetables, and they are also important vectors of several viruses (ex. Tomato Spotted Wilt Virus).

Release: Release these mites at sundown the day of receipt. To release, evenly disperse the whole leaves or leaflets evenly onto the foliage of the plants in the area to be treated. If *degenerans* arrive in a vermiculite carrier, evenly disperse contents of the tubes in the same manner as mentioned above. Concentrate the bulk of them at release points on or near the most heavily infested plants. Leave the container in the treatment area for 24 hours after release to ensure all mites have exited. *Degenerans* should be released as soon as possible, but if short storage is necessary (no longer than 12 hours), a temperature of 8-10^{o}C (46-50^{o}F) is recommended.

Rate: Recommend 3-4 mites per .8m^2 (9ft^2), 2-3 times every 2 weeks, or 1 per small plant. In sweet pepper we advise an introduction of 2000 *A. degenerans* per ha (2.5 acres), with at least 20 pieces per introduction point.

- Optimum temperature range is 15-25oC (65-85oF), 60-85% RH. Eggs can tolerate low humidity, therefore a population can develop in greenhouses during cold winter weather or hot summer weather.
- This mite does not diapause, and can therefore be introduced in winter time without any problems.
- Works best on pollen producing plants.
- Use sticky cards (also available at NIC) to monitor thrips. Use 1 trap per 50 plants, and check weekly.
- Beneficial Nematodes (available at NIC), will help control thrips which drop to the soil to pupate.

Please let us know within 24 hours of receipt if there are any problems with your Live Insect Order.

Give a Bug a Hug Click here– They're More Adorable Than You Think!

For further Information Contact: **NATURAL INSECT CONTROL**, 3737 Netherby Road, Stevensville, Ontario, L0S 1S0
905-382-2904 (Tel); 905-382-4418 (Fax); info@naturalinsectcontrol.com
For further Information on all NIC Beneficial Insects go to **www.naturalinsectcontrol.com**