APHID PARASITE
Aphidius ervi

Product: *Aphidius ervi* is a small parasitic wasp about 4-5mm (1/8-1/4") in length. It has a slender black body with brown legs and long antennae.

Target: Mainly large aphids such as the potato aphid (*Macrosiphum euphorbiae*) and the glasshouse potato aphid (*Aulacorthum solani*). Once the female has found a host, she bends her abdomen under her legs and injects an egg into the aphid with her ovipositor. After a few days the *Aphidius ervi* larva starts eating the aphid from the inside. The parasitized aphid hardens into a gold yellowish-brown mummy, from which a new adult parasitic wasp emerges through a round hole at the rear. Development time for *Aphidius ervi* takes 26 days at 57^{O}F (14^{O}C), 13.5 days at 68^{O}F (20^{O}C), and 12 days at 75.5^{O}F (23.6^{O}C). A female can lay 350 eggs in her lifetime, most during the first 5 to 7 days of her life at a rate of 55 eggs per day. *Aphidius ervi* has a very good searching ability making it suitable for preventative measures.

Release: As soon as first aphids appear. Release adult wasps in the lower part of the crop between the leaves. *Aphidius ervi* will search more effectively if they are familiar with the scent of the crop. To achieve this, place some leaves (preferably with aphids) in a bucket. Put the container of *Aphidius ervi* in the bucket and open the container. Then quickly close the lid on the bucket. Leave for 30 minutes out of direct sunlight. You can now release the wasps into your crop and they will begin to prey.

Rate: For prevention, release 1 wasp/0.4m² (1/2.5ft²) weekly. For more curative purposes, release at a rate of 2 wasps/m²(2/10ft²) per week until under control.

Notes:

- 58°-75°F (14°-24°C).
- Aphidius ervi can be used in combination with Aphidoletes aphidimyza to control beginning aphid infestations.

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

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For further Information Contact: **NATURAL INSECT CONTROL**, 3737 Netherby Road, Stevensville, Ontario, L0S 1S0
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