MEALYBUG PREDATOR
Cryptolaemus montrouzieri

Product: Adults - the adult is a small, black Australian ladybeetle approximately 1/6" long with an orange head and posterior end. Female Crypts lay their eggs singly within the mealybug egg cluster. The eggs hatch (8-9 days), and the larvae suck out the body contents of the mealybug nymphs. Adults can fly and cover large areas to search for food. The Crypt adults are shipped in amounts of 100 and 500.
Larvae - the juvenile stage of Cryptolaemus is quite similar in appearance to the prey it feeds on (and can often be mistaken for a mealybug). No bigger than 5mm, this insect is covered in long white fluff. This allows it to move in and out of mealy infestations at ease. Though unable to fly, these larvae can easily source out the mealy through its excellent sense of smell. Once the mealy is located, the Crypt larvae will stay in the area until it is clean. A single larva can consume 250 small mealybugs! The Crypt larvae are available in trays of 100.

Target: Both the adult and larval stages feed on all stages of mealybugs including long-tailed mealybugs. Mealybugs are soft-bodied sucking insects which cause plants to shed their leaves, become stunted or even die. An infested plant may appear to have small puffs of cottony wax (which mealybugs produce), in the joints where the stems branch, on the undersides of leaves or in other protected areas or crevices. When mealybugs become limiting, adults will feed on aphids, soft shelled scale, and other soft-bodied insects.

Release: Adults - it is advisable to release adults in the early morning or late evening when the beetles will be less active due to cooler temperatures and lower light. Remove the paper carrier, and gently distribute the beetles among the plant foliage where they will set off in search of mealybugs.
Larvae - keep the package cool until release (10°-15°C or 50°-60°F). DO NOT refrigerate! Gently remove shredded paper and place into infested areas. Any remaining larvae should be removed with a small paintbrush and placed directly onto the plant material.

Rate: Adults- to introduce adult beetles, the predators should be released at a rate of 5 beetles per 1 square meter of planted area (1 per square foot), or 2-5 beetles per plant depending on infestation. 600 to 1000 beetles are recommended per 1 mature fruit tree.
Larvae - recommend 10 larvae/plant for light infestations, and 20 larvae/plant for heavy infestations.

Notes:

- 22o-25oC (71o-76oF) RH 70-80%. At 21oC (70oF), each generation will require approximately 45 days to complete development.
- Using both the adults and the larvae of the Cryptolaemus provide highly effective control.
- Must have a minimum of 8 hours of light.
- For long tailed mealybugs, also use lacewing larvae, and for root mealybugs use Beneficial Nematodes.
- Do not store for extended periods of time - maximum 24 hours.

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**

- For heavy infestations, use a soap spray (available at NIC), to knock down the mealybug population before releasing Crypts.
- Destroyed egg masses may remain white, cottony, and visible on the leaves until watering or physical cleaning wipes them off. The clue that they have been destroyed is that the wax filaments are spread about, no longer forming a compact, undisturbed mound.
- Control ants on the plants as they protect the honeydew-producing mealybugs

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

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