WHITEFLY PREDATOR
Delphastus catalinae

Product: *Delphastus catalinae* is a minute black lady beetle. Adult females live up to 65 days and lay 3-5 eggs per day. They require 100-150 whitefly eggs per day to maintain laying. Older larvae gradually stop feeding and move down the plant to search out protected places for pupation. Development time under greenhouse conditions, ie. temperatures of 25°C(75°F), is about 25 days. *Delphastus* are shipped as pre-fed adults in vials containing perching material. They are sold in amounts of 100 or 500.

Target: The larva and adult beetles have a voracious appetite for all stages of whitefly (especially eggs), and will also feed on spider mites and scale if whitefly is not available. Adult beetles can eat several hundred whitefly per day.

Release: Release these beetles at sundown the day of receipt. Very lightly mist the foliage of the plants to be treated just prior to release. Open the jar in the treatment area and gently tap out the beetles directly onto the foliage of the infested plants or evenly throughout the crop if the infestation is widespread. It is best not to release less than 10 *Delphastus* per release location. This will ensure proper mating. For any that will not readily come out of the jar, simply tuck the perching material from inside the jar into the foliage of a plant, preferably one with a heavy pest population. Supplying these beetles with Beneficial Insect Food (available at NIC) at or near the release site may increase their egg production. Do not store *Delphastus* in the jar for more than 12 hours. If unable to release immediately, hold at a humid 14-18°C (55-65°F).

Rate: The most effective application rate is 1 beetle per 1-5m2 (15-50ft2), 10-20 per plant bi-weekly depending on the infestation, or 2000 per 278m2 (3000ft2). Very effective for sweet potato whitefly.

Notes:

- 19-30°C (65-90°F) RH 20-80%. Can use in low temperature and low light conditions.
- Delphastus is best adapted to feeding and reproducing at high whitefly densities, therefore it is suggested that they be used along with other biological controls such as the whitefly parasite - Encarsia formosa (also available at NIC).
- When Delphastus are out of their comfort zone, they naturally 'play dead'. Post dispersal, leave the bottle upright in the crop, in a safe place over night to ensure complete release of the beneficial.
- Please note: beneficial insects are over packed 20% to account for naturally occurring die off.

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
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For further Information on all NIC Beneficial Insects go to **www.naturalinsectcontrol.com**