WHITEFLY PARASITE
Encarsia formosa

Product: *Encarsia formosa* - is a minute (<1mm), black parasitic wasp, who's only interest is to lay eggs inside 2-week-old whitefly scales (nymphs), thus killing the whitefly and producing more *Encarsia*. Each egg will kill one whitefly scale. Adult *Encarsia* lay up to 200 eggs. The parasite then develops inside of the whitefly scale, and midway through its development (usually 10 days), the scale turns dark. After another 10 days, the adult *Encarsia* emerge from the parasitized scale. Adults can live for 30 days but are normally active for about 10 days. The complete life cycle requires nearly 28 days. Adults will also kill whitefly scales by direct feeding; otherwise, they feed on honeydew secreted by the whiteflies. *Encarsia* are shipped as parasitized whitefly nymphs glued to small cards (no adults are visible on the cards). A strip of 10 cards contains 1000 *Encarsia* whitefly parasites. When hatched, they do not bite, sting, or bother anything except the whitefly.

Target: Greenhouse whitefly (*Trialeurodes vaporariorum*) & Tobacco whitefly (*Bemisia tabaci*) - a small, "white," moth-like fly that lays its eggs on the underside of leaves. They rest on the plant leaves, and when disturbed, all rush into the air, hesitate a while, then fly back to the foliage. The nymphs also live on the underside of leaves, sucking the juice from the plant.

Release: Open the package around the infested plants and place all cards out upon receipt - these cannot be kept (please handle the cards by the edge to avoid damaging the eggs). Bend strips and tear off. Hang each card evenly throughout the plants on the shady side, sheltered from the sun's rays and away from watering & mist etc. Parasites will emerge from the black nymphs starting in a few days, and hatching over a two-week period. Leave the cards undisturbed for at least 10 days. You will see no change in the card, as each parasite chews a tiny hole from which it flies out searching to parasitize another whitefly nymph. Within a month, 15 - 20% of the whitefly nymphs should be turning black on the underside of the leaves.

Rate: Start introducing *Encarsia* at the first sign of whiteflies and should be introduced every two weeks, at least 3 times consecutively, at a rate of 2 - 4 per .09m² (1 ft²). They should then be self-sustaining. Excellent control has been achieved when 80% of the whitefly nymphs are blackened. Although *Encarsia* are good flyers and will seek prey, if necessary, they tend to remain in areas where the whitefly concentrations are concentrated. Try to distribute the cards evenly.

Notes:

- 20o - 30oC (68 - 86oF). RH 50 - 80%. At room temperatures below 17oC (62oF), the wasp will not fly to new host plants.
- Use Yellow Sticky Cards to monitor & catch the adult whitefly. This is important to gain control.
- DO NOT throw away fallen or pruned leaves without checking them for black parasitized nymph. Leave these under the plant for 2 weeks until they have all emerged. You can see the small emergence hole by holding the leaf up to the light.
- *Encarsia* are very sensitive to insecticide residues.

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

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

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**