WHITEFLY PARASITES
Eretmocerus sp.

Product: Adult *Eretmocerus* are minute, parasitic wasps, 0.6mm long. Female adults have a golden yellow thorax and abdomen, while adult males are brownish yellow with thick antennae. They attack both the silverleaf/sweet potato whitefly and the greenhouse whitefly. About 50% of the population are female. *Eretmocerus* females lay eggs under whitefly nymphs; after hatching, larvae penetrate and consume the whitefly. About 2 weeks after eggs are laid, parasitized whiteflies can often be identified by a noticeable golden colour and signs of the developing wasp inside. Adult wasps emerge from the remains of their host about 20 days (at 25°C), after eggs are laid, leaving a distinctive round hole in the whitefly. *Eretmocerus* females also kill a significant number of whitefly immatures by puncturing and feeding on body fluids. Each female can produce 50-100 progeny. *Eretmocerus* are shipped as parasitized whitefly pupae mixed with sawdust, from which 3000 parasitic wasps hatch. May also become available on a new hanging card system.

Target: *Eretmocerus* is intended for use on the silverleaf/ sweet potato/ poinsettia whitefly (*Bemisia argentifolii* or *B. tabaci*) and the greenhouse whitefly (*Trialeurodes vaporariorum*).

Release: Distribute as soon as possible. If unable, store in the dark at 10o-15oC (50o-58oF), for a maximum of 1-2 days. Sprinkle the contents in application containers or on leaves near the base of the crop. Keep protected from direct sunlight. Make sure the material remains at its introduction site for at least one week after initial release.

Rate: Preventative releases are recommended for tomatoes at a rate of 1/m^2 (10/100ft^2) per week before whitefly are detected. After first whitefly are seen, release 1-5/m^2 (10-50/100ft^2) per week until control is achieved (looking for 80-90% of the scales parasitized). *Eretmocerus* is especially good for greenhouse grown tomato, cucumber, pepper, and eggplant crops. May also be useful on ornamental crops and some outdoor crops.

Notes:

- Prefers warm temperatures from 75°-100°F (23° -38°C). They are well adapted to hot, dry climates.
- Be sure to properly identify the whitefly species.
- Monitor the crop carefully for whiteflies with yellow sticky traps (available at NIC). To be effective, *Eretmocerus* releases must be made early before whiteflies become numerous. Avoid releasing close to yellow sticky traps if possible, to minimize trap catches of wasps.
- Monitor crop for parasitized scales. This will require close inspection with a hand lens since the parasitized scales turn golden, not black as with *Encarsia*.
- Do not release immediately before or after pesticide applications. Check pesticide compatibility.

Give a Bug a hug CLICK HERE to give your insect friend a new home

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**