SPIDER MITE PREDATOR
Feltiella acarisuga

Product: ***Feltiella acarisuga*** is a tiny midge that is a very effective predator of two-spotted spider mites in its larval or maggot stage of its life cycle. *Feltiella* has a short development time, and pupates on the leaf surface rather than the soil. They work well early in the growing season, and being winged, are capable and extremely efficient in detecting and searching out isolated spider mite outbreaks in large areas.

Target: *Feltiella* work best on crops with hairy leaves and stems, especially greenhouse tomatoes and cucumbers. It has been found that the number of midges increase in response to the increase in prey. *Feltiella and persimilis* can co-exist at high population densities providing superior spider mite control.

Release: *Feltiella* are shipped as pupa in tubs or vials. To use the tubs, punch a hole in the paper lid liner and leave in the shade at the end of a plant row. The vials can be hung in the shade inside the greenhouse until midges start to emerge, then released near spider mite infested leaves.

Rate: When diapausing spider mites first appear, release 250 *Feltiella* cocoons per localized outbreak as they occur. Widespread and severe infestations need a minimum of four tubs (1000 cocoons) per acre for six consecutive weeks in order to establish the midge quickly. Later in the summer, the number of introductions can be reduced to four as the predator life cycles shortens. Trials have shown the spread through the crop to be excellent when using two introduction points per acre. *Feltiella* will prey on red spider mite.

Notes:

- Require a high density of spider mites and 80% relative humidity to become established. Can tolerate lower humidity once established.

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

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