NATURAL INSECT CONTROL

WHERE NATURE THRIVES

FUNGUS GNAT & THRIP PREDATORY MITE
Gaeolaelaps gillespiei

Product: 1L container of the predatory mite *Gaeolaelaps gillespiei* adults, immatures, and some eggs combined with a pasteurized peat mix. *Gaeolaelaps gillespiei* is a brown colored mite, approximately 1mm long when fully grown. The male is thin while the female has a bulbous body, thick front legs and long mouth parts. Females lay eggs into the top few cm (1 inch) of soil. Eggs hatch in about 2-3 days, and become adults in about 11 days. One adult can kill up to 7 fungus gnat larvae per day. Immature stages are also predatory, but kill fewer pests per day. Adults can survive in the absence of prey, but they will not reproduce unless well fed.

Target: *Gaeolaelaps gillespiei* is a soil dwelling, predatory mite. Nymphs and adults feed on a wide variety of other soil organisms including thrips and sciarid fly (fungus gnats). This mite is more surface oriented that other predatory mites. Eggs and pupae are hardly ever eaten as it prefers small larvae. *Gaeolaelaps* will also feed on Thrip larvae which drop to the soil to pupate, (and larvae from soil breeding thrips), and can help control Thrip infestations by limiting the size of the next generation. However, it cannot protect against adult thrips invading from outside.

Release: Release at sundown, as soon as received. Place the bottles horizontally in a cool 10° - 15°C and dark place. To release, gently rotate the shaker canister to distribute the mites evenly among the damp peat mix. The mites should also be released on dirt and gravel floors, under benches & ground covers or any place larvae may develop. Concentrate the bulk of them at the most heavily infested or most active breeding areas. Leave the canister in the treatment area for 24 hours to ensure all mites have exited. After their introduction, the predatory mites immediately start their work. They can be easily spotted on the top layer of the soil and around the plant base. *Gaeolaelaps* seldom climbs into the plants.

Rate: Use 1L per 100m^2 (1000ft^2), or 1L per 500-1000 plants. For cucumbers use 4-8L per .4ha (1 acre), and for peppers use 10-12L per .4ha (1 acre). To control "red phase" or dormancy stage of two spotted spider mites, place 100 *Gaeolaelaps* at the base of every support post and 300 *Gaeolaelaps* per meter of wall. *Gaeolaelaps* will use the two spotted spider as a food source for the winter.

- 20°-30°C (68°-86°F), but is very tolerant of a variety of conditions except freezing and flooding-becomes inactive at 14°C (57°F).
- Best protection occurs when *Gaeolaelaps* are applied to the soil before pest populations are established, allowing their numbers to build up in the soil or growing medium.
- Also use Beneficial Nematodes for fungus gnat control & Yellow Sticky Cards for fungus gnat monitoring as well as for trapping flying adults.
- Use along with Neoseiulus cucumeris to control thrips.
- *Gaeolaelaps gillespiei* is very susceptible to various pesticides. Caution is advised when chemically treating other pests and diseases.

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

Unleash the Buzz! Click Here for Insects

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**