PREDATORY MITE

Amblyseius fallacis

Product: *Neoseiulus Amblyseius fallacis* is a pear-shaped predatory mite 0.25-0.5 mm similar in appearance to two-spotted spider mite but are more flattened and lack spots. Their colour varies from cream to almost white and changes depending on age and recent food source. The eggs of *N. fallacis* are nearly transparent white, shiny, football-shaped whereas two-spotted spider mite eggs are round. *N. fallacis* eggs hatch into a six-legged larval stage that is transparent and difficult to see without a microscope. The nymph and adult stage have eight legs. At 70°F (21°C) *N. fallacis* eggs hatch in two days and adults develop in 7 days. At 55°F (13°C) adults develop in 16 days. Females represent 66-75% of the adult population. They can lay up to 100 eggs along the ribs of the undersides of leaves. At 80°F (27°C) adults live 1-81 days (average 41) and at 70°F (21°C) the life span is somewhat longer at 24-80 days (average 62). *N. fallacis* are also effective indoors on crops that can provide them with pollen and nectar on which to establish themselves. *N. fallacis* predatory mites can survive solely on pollen.

Target: *N. fallacis* preys on species of mites, especially red, two-spotted (*Tetranychus urticae*), European, Lewis, Spruce, and Strawberry mites. When prey are plentiful, a random walking pattern is used , allowing them to prey on mites on a leaf most efficiently. When prey are scarce, the predators walk along the leaf edges, increasing the chance of moving to a new leaf. Individual predatory mites assume a stance that allows them to be carried on a breeze to new hunting territories when prey numbers are low. Research shows that *N. fallacis* uses chemical signals from prey silk and feces to hunt prey and uses its own pheromone to mark previously searched areas.

Release: Release *N. fallacis* into crop immediately upon receipt, ideally when temperatures are above 55°F (12°C).
Avoid releases when temperatures are very high, ie. 80°F+ (27°C+), and humidity is low since *N. fallacis* is especially sensitive to dry conditions. *N. fallacis* come shipped on bean leaves. When placing leaves throughout your crop, make sure they are placed out of direct sunlight and in a position so that the mite predators are able to make contact with the plant foliage (ie. Bean leaves touching leaves or stem of infested plant).

Rate: 10,000 predator mites per ½ hectare (1 acre). Space release sites evenly throughout the field, especially towards the upwind side and wherever spider mite densities are highest. If possible, scout the field and map spider mite hot spots just before or during predator releases. Apply predators more heavily wherever spider mite densities are high; fewer where lower.

Notes: 40°-100°F (5°-40°C), 60-90% RH. Temperatures below 50°F (10°C) the mites will feed but won't produce. It is known for humid environments ie. peppermint, strawberry, and sweet corn crops.
Once established after 2-3 releases, provides continuous control. For quick knockdown of spider mites, NIC recommends releasing *Phytoseiulus persimilis* alongside *N. fallacis* for effective short- and long-term control.
They are adapted to tolerate both pyrethrins and pyrethroids.

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**