SOIL PEST CONTROL
Stratiolaelaps scimitus

Product: 1L bottle contain adults, immatures, and some eggs combined with a pasteurized peat mix. Stratiolaelaps scimitus 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 feed. 5L or 10L bags, please remove the bag from shipping boxes on arrival. The mites need to breathe.

Target: *Stratiolaelaps scimitus* is a soil dwelling, predatory mite. Nymphs and adults feed on a wide variety of soil organisms including sciarid fly (fungus gnats), shore fly larvae and springtails, and other species of mites (including "red phase" two spotted spider mites). Eggs and pupae are hardly ever eaten as they prefer small larvae. They 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. It is possible to store it for a short time if necessary. 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 peat mix. Open the screw-top, remove the filter paper, re-secure the top and gently tap them out of the bottle onto the slightly damp growing medium or soil. The mites should 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. *Stratiolaelaps* seldom climb into the plants.

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

- 20°-30°C (68°-86°F), is very tolerant of a variety of conditions except freezing and flooding. It survives mild winters but becomes inactive at 14°C (57°F).
- Best protection occurs when applied to the soil before pest populations are established allowing their numbers to build.
- Also use Beneficial Nematodes for fungus gnat control & Yellow Sticky Cards for fungus gnat monitoring and trapping.
- Use along with Neoseiulus cucumeris to control thrips.
- *Stratiolaelaps scimitus* 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.

Give a Bug a Hug CLICK HERE They're Adorable

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**