

Californian predatory mites for the control of spider mites

Californian predatory mites are small cream-colored mites of the species *Amblyseius californicus*, also known as *Neoseiulus californicus*, that can be used to control spider mites (*Tetranychus urticae*) on various crops.



Target Crops

All plants that suffer from spider mites.

What are spider mites?

Spider mites are small, cream-colored creatures about 0.5 mm in size, generally found on the underside of plant leaves. The mites feed on the cells of the leaf, causing light-colored spots to appear. An infestation is usually first visible near the main vein. In severe infestations, the mites can also be found in the buds and flowers of the plants, often creating very fine webs in which the mites can be seen moving around.

What are Californian predatory mites?

Californian predatory mites are small, cream-colored mites that feed on spider mites. They are supplied in a bottle with a spreading material that can be distributed over the leaves of infested plants. They hunt the larvae of the spider mites, but adult mites are not safe from them either. They lay eggs near spider mite colonies so that the young predatory mites are close to their food source. Californian predatory mites can also be released under strong artificial lighting, at higher temperatures, and in low humidity conditions.

Dosage:

Preventive or light infestation:

100 to 250 predatory mites per M²

Severe infestation:

250 to 500 predatory mites per M²

For severe infestations, it may be beneficial to release Californian predatory mites together with common predatory mites.



Instructions for use:

Predatory mites can be easily released by sprinkling the fine carrier material directly from the bottle onto the leaves:

- Place the bottle horizontally so that the predatory mites can distribute evenly inside the bottle.
- Hold the bottle at an angle and rotate it several times to evenly distribute the predatory mites in the carrier material.
- Open the bottle and sprinkle the carrier material onto the plants to be treated. Continue rotating the bottle while releasing to keep the predatory mites evenly distributed in the carrier material.
- Place the empty bottle among the plants so that any remaining predatory mites are not lost.

Additional Information

At 25°C, the predatory mite develops twice as fast as the spider mite and can quickly bring a spider mite population under control. Californian predatory mites also work well at a low relative humidity and temperatures above 25°C. Californian predatory mites do not enter diapause and can therefore be used throughout the year.

Chemical Products

If chemical products have been used in the period before releasing Californian predatory mites, the mites may still be somewhat affected. However, the Californian predatory mite is much more resistant to residues of chemical pesticides than common predatory mite.

Packaging

Californian predatory mites are available in bottles filled with vermiculite, two sizes are available containing either approximately 12.500 or 25.000 mites.

Storage

Release as soon as possible after receipt. Can be stored for a maximum of 4 days at a temperature of 8-10°C