

# SPIDERMITE PREDATOR

*Phytoseiulus persimilis*



## Contents:

Proper name: *Phytoseiulus persimilis*

Common name: Predator mite

Minimum contents: Listed on the bottle

Packed in vermiculite: no prey included.

Size & appearance of adult females: red color, approx 0.5 mm long

Immatures & males are smaller and lighter in color. Eggs are oblong.

Predators should be active at room temperature.

## Instructions for use:

Release immediately upon arrival by gently sprinkling onto dry foliage. Rotate bottles slowly to mix predators while sprinkling onto crop.

## Storage:

Bottles may be refrigerated for up to one day at 40°F (6°C). Bottles should be stored horizontally.

## Accepted Uses:

*P. persimilis* feeds voraciously on Two-spotted mites & other spidermites (red spider) in the family *Tetranychidae*. Predators must have spidermites to survive & will not feed on pollen or plants. They are not cannibalistic. Best adapted to greenhouse, shadehouse & moderate outdoor environments.

## Rates of Use:

Release rates are dependant on crop, pest levels, and desired speed of control. Releases should be made when pest levels are low. A typical value of 1 predator per sq/ft (10 per sq/m). It is not unusual to wait 6-8 weeks for complete control. In nursery & greenhouse crops, predators are often released every 2-4 weeks.

## Biology: (typical values @ 68-77°F)

sex ratio: 4 females/male

average eggs laid per day: 2.4

lifespan: 30-36 days - days from egg to adult: 7.5

average eggs per female: 54

population increase = 44 x in generation time of 17 days

prey consumed per day: 7 adults, 20 immatures or 25 eggs.