

Natures Good Guys

RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS

Feltiella acarisuga Two-Spotted Spider Mite Destroyer

- Make a hole in the paper in the lid on the beaker and put it the greenhouse. Protect against direct sunlight let the container remain for at least two weeks for all the adults to emerge.
- Use 250 adult midges per hot spot for control of low infestations (less than 10 mites per leaf sample) with predatory mites.
- Widespread and severe infestations need a minimum of four tubs (1000 cocoons) per acre for six consecutive weeks, in order to establish an effective midge population quickly.
- This weekly release rate is approximately doubled for heavy infestations (greater than 20 mites per sample), 500-1000 adults per hot spot for six successive weeks.
- Feltiella are sold as pupae on paper and packaged in units of 250.
- The average emergence rate of adults from the pupal stage is approximately 90%, over 300 cocoons are packaged in each tub to ensure a yield of 250 adults.
- To use a tub, all the grower needs to do is remove the lid and leave the tub in the shade in the vicinity of spider mite outbreak.
- Adult midges will emerge over the course of three to four days, mate and lay eggs on the leaves of mite-infested crops.

Strategic Considerations: Feltiella and *P. persimilis* can co-exist at high population densities and can be used together for effective spider mite control. However, it is recommended for prevention of spider mite outbreaks since they cannot survive in the absence of their prey. These midges should be released only after a spider mite problem has truly been detected.

