

Natures Good Guys

RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS

Stethorus punctillum

Spider Mite Destroyer

- Once the beetles warm up they become active immediately and should be released into spider mite infested areas as soon as possible.
- To introduce in commercial greenhouses, release *Stethorus* preventively or at the first sign of spider mite.
- Release a minimum of 100 adults per "hot spot", or 10 adults per infested plant, weekly, for 3 to 4 weeks.
- Best control of spider mites is achieved when *Stethorus* is used along with predatory mites.
- Use care when removing leaves from infested plants. Keep any leaves with *Stethorus* pupae in the greenhouse one week or until adult beetles have emerged.

Storage: If necessary, beetles can be stored for a few days at 10 – 16 °C (50 – 61 °F) but longer storage will reduce egg laying and adult life span.

Strategic Considerations: The pesticide fenbutatin oxide (Vendex®) can be used with *Stethorus* for additional control of spider mites if "hot spots" develop. It does not harm *Stethorus*, but avoid over-spraying, which reduces the predators' food supply and their ability to reproduce. Spreader-stickers, supreme oils and soaps are harmful to beetles contacted by the spray, but have little residual activity.