**Description**

*Aphidoletes aphidimyza*, also called the aphid midge, is a native fly in the Cecidomyiidae family. The adult resembles a small gnat (2-3 mm) and has long legs. Adults are active at dusk.

The eggs are oval, bright orange in color and measure less than 0.3 mm. The larva resembles a small maggot (2-3 mm). It is bright orange to red, depending on its diet.

The larva has powerful mouthparts that allow it to grab its prey. It then injects a paralyzing toxin and then suck out the aphid body contents. In its natural state, it can feed on more than 60 species of aphids.

**Life cycle**

- A life cycle lasts approximately 24 days at 21 °C (70 °F).
- The optimal conditions are a temperature of 21-25°C and a humidity of 70%.
- Each female lays 150-200 eggs during her lifetime (1-2 weeks).
- The eggs hatch after 2 to 3 days.
- A larva can consume 3-50 aphids a day.
- The larval stage lasts between 7 to 10 days.
- Pupation occurs in the ground (in soil, sand, organic matter, etc.) and adults emerge after 2 to 3 weeks.
- *Aphidoletes* needs a minimum of 16 hours of light.

**Introduction rate**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Introduction</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Surface</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Duration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preventive</td>
<td>0.25-0.50</td>
<td>per m²</td>
<td>weekly</td>
<td>3 introductions in total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curative</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>per m²</td>
<td>weekly</td>
<td>until establishment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hot spot</td>
<td>100-1000</td>
<td>per m²</td>
<td>weekly</td>
<td>until establishment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Application

Aphid midge is an important biocontrol agent in orchards, greenhouse crops and nurseries. It should be introduced in the spring before the first signs of an aphid infestation; as soon as the aphids are detected, make additional releases (2-3 times every 7 or 10 days) in the infested areas to establish the predator.

Add extra lighting in autumn and winter in your greenhouses. A 60-watt light bulb can prevent more than half of the larvae within a 20-meter radius from falling into diapause.

Larvae need to dig in the ground to pupate. In greenhouses with plastic or concrete floors, add trays of potting soil or a thin layer (1/8 inch) of sand, sawdust or other organic material.

Formats

Container

- AB016 - Aphidoletes aphidimyza - 250 pupae
- AB017 - Aphidoletes aphidimyza - 1000 pupae
- AB018 - Aphidoletes aphidimyza - 3000 pupae
- AB019 - Aphidoletes aphidimyza - 5000 pupae

DO NOT FREEZE - DO NOT REFRIGERATE - For more information, visit www.anatisbioprotection.com