

# Aphid midge (*Aphidoletes aphidimyza*)

Aphid predator midge

## 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

Introduction	Quantity	Surface	Frequency	Duration
Preventive	0,25-0,50	per m <sup>2</sup>	weekly	3 introductions in total
Curative	1	per m <sup>2</sup>	weekly	until establishment
Hot spot	100-1000	per m <sup>2</sup>	weekly	until establishment



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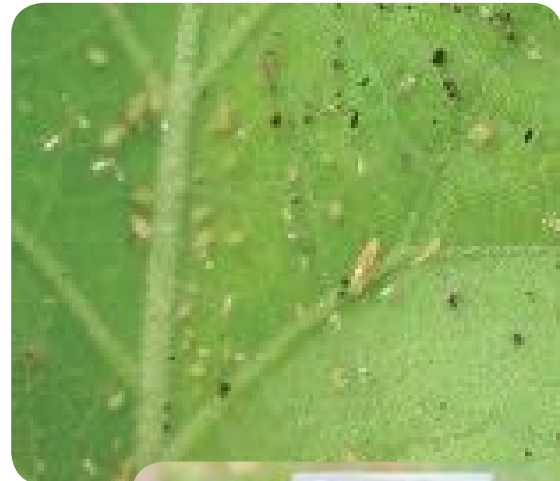
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## Application

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



- 1** *Aphidoletes aphidimyza* arrive at the pupa stage. The adults will emerge after a few days (maximum 2 weeks).

Keep the container at (22-25°C) and in the shade to activate emergence. The substrate in the container must remain moist.



- 2** Release the adults at dusk.  
Open the container in a non-infested area to allow adults to cover the entire area to be treated



- 3** Repeat introductions weekly for 3 weeks.

**IMPORTANT**  
IMPORTANT Stop ventilating the greenhouse for 6 hours after releasing the *Aphidoletes*.

**DO NOT FREEZE - DO NOT REFRIGERATE** - For more information, visit [www.anatisbioprotection.com](http://www.anatisbioprotection.com)



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