



Neoseiulus cucumeris

Target pests

- Tobacco thrips and onion thrips (*Thrips tabaci*)
- Western flower thrips (*Frankliniella occidentalis*)
- Flower thrips (*Frankliniella tritici*)
- Strawberry tarsonemid or cyclamen mite (*Phytonemus pallidus*)
- Broad mite (*Polyphagotarsonemus latus*)
- Spruce spider mite (*Oligonychus ununguis*)

Target crops

- Vegetable crops (Cucumbers, Tomatoes, Peppers, etc.)
- Indoor and outdoor (Planters and other flower boxes)

Neoseiulus cucumeris is a predatory mite widely used in biological control to manage thrips populations.

Native to temperate regions, this mite is known for its ability to establish quickly in greenhouse conditions and effectively target thrips larvae, which are its primary prey. In the absence of prey, **N. cucumeris** can survive by feeding on pollen, small mites, and the eggs of other insects and arthropods. This ability to feed on diverse sources makes it an excellent ally in preventive biological control strategies, as it can persist in the crop even without a continuous presence of specific pests.

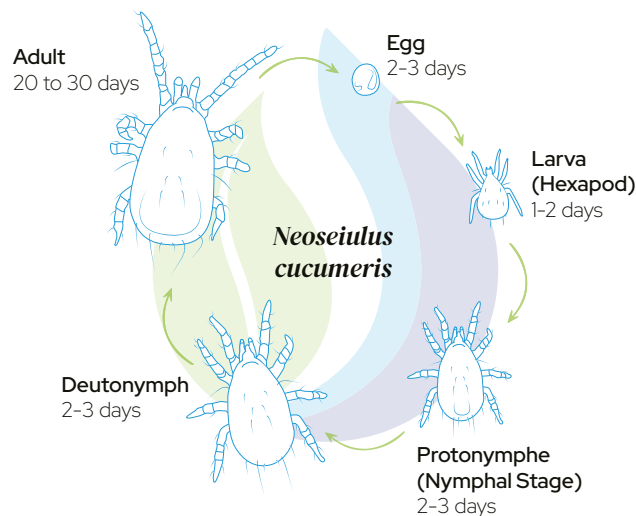
This predator thrives in a range of temperatures and humidity levels, making it ideal for use in controlled environments. Easy to introduce through convenient formulations like sachets or loose carriers, **N. cucumeris** is a cornerstone of integrated pest management (IPM) in many crops.

Life cycle

- **Optimal condition:** 20-25°C, Humidity above 65%.
- **Reproduction:** Females lay 1 to 3 eggs per day on leaf hairs or in sheltered areas close to prey. After hatching, the larva is mobile but does not actively feed. First nymphal stage where the mite starts feeding on prey (thrips eggs, larvae, or phytophagous mites).

Introduction rate

Introduction	Quantity	Frequency	Duration
Preventive	25-50 individuals/m ² Frequent use of slow-release sachets is advised.	1-4 weeks depending on environmental conditions and pest pressure	Until control
Curative	50-500 individuals/m ² Bulk release can be used for immediate impact in infested areas.	1 week	Until control



Application

Neoseiulus cucumeris can be introduced in two main ways:

- **Bulk:** Sprinkle the mites and their substrate directly onto plants and foliage for immediate action against pests.
- **Slow-release sachets (preventive):** Hung at the center of the plants, protected from direct sunlight and overhead watering. Once released, the mites actively move across the foliage, primarily targeting the early larval stages of thrips.

Storage

- It is always recommended to use **N. cucumeris** upon receipt to ensure maximum efficacy.
- To ensure that the Cucumeris remain fresh, make sure that air circulates properly in the space where they are placed to avoid the buildup of carbon dioxide