



Encarsia formosa

Target pests

- Greenhouse whitefly
(*Trialeurodes vaporariorum*)

Target crops

- Vegetables: tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, eggplants
- Ornamentals: poinsettias, geraniums, fuchsias
- Fruit crops (in greenhouses or tunnels)
- Aromatic and medicinal plants

Encarsia formosa is a parasitoid wasp that targets whiteflies. The adult is 0.6 mm long. Its head and thorax are black, while its antennae and abdomen are yellow.

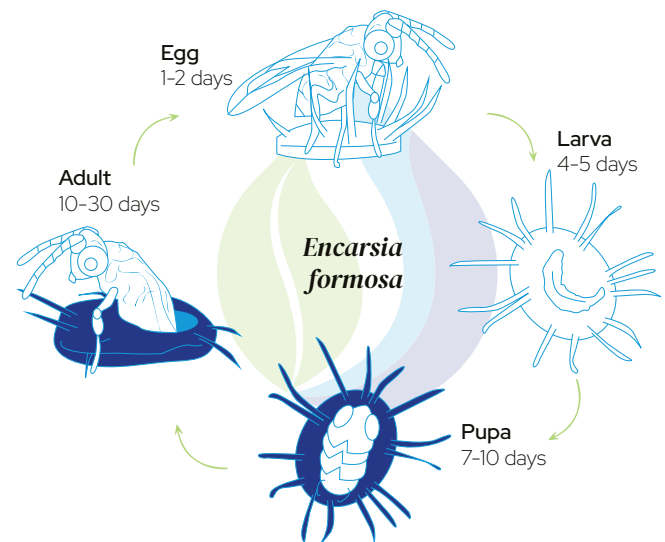
To reproduce, this tiny wasp lays its eggs inside immature whitefly larvae. After 10 to 14 days, the parasitized whitefly larva turns black. A new parasitoid wasp emerges after 2 weeks..

Life cycle

- Life Cycle:** approximately 28 days at 21°C
- Optimal Conditions:** Temperature of 20–25°C and relative humidity of 50–70%.
- Reproduction:** Females lay an average of 10 eggs per day, totaling 200 to 350 eggs throughout their lifetime. Eggs are laid inside 2-week-old whiteflies (3rd and 4th larval instars). The egg hatches inside the whitefly larva, and the *Encarsia* larva begins feeding on its host's internal tissues.

Introduction rate

Introduction	Quantity	Frequency	Duration
Preventive	1-2 wasps / m ²	1 week	3 to 4 weeks
Curative	Mild 5 wasps / m ²	1-2 weeks	Until 80% of whiteflies are parasitized
	Severe 10 wasps / m ²	1 week	Until 80% of whiteflies are parasitized



Application

Two formats of *Encarsia formosa* are available: cards and capsules. Both are easy to apply. Simply hang them in the infected areas of the crop, away from direct light, or place the capsules on the substrate within the crop.

Adults will begin to emerge after 1–2 weeks.

Storage

 Use the insects immediately upon receipt.

 Do not refrigerate or freeze