

APHIDOLETES APHIDIMYZA

Predator



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

	PREVENTIVE	CURATIVE	HOT SPOT
QUANTITY	0,25 - 0,50	1	100 - 1 000
SURFACE	per m ²	per m ²	per m ²
FREQUENCY	weekly	weekly	weekly
DURATION	3 introductions in total	until establishment	until establishment

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 250, 1 000, 3 000 and 5 000 pupae

MANUAL

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

USE UPON RECEIPT • DO NOT FREEZE • DO NOT REFRIGERATE