Bio**Swirskii**

Amblyseius swirskii

Predatory mite for biological control of thrips and whiteflies

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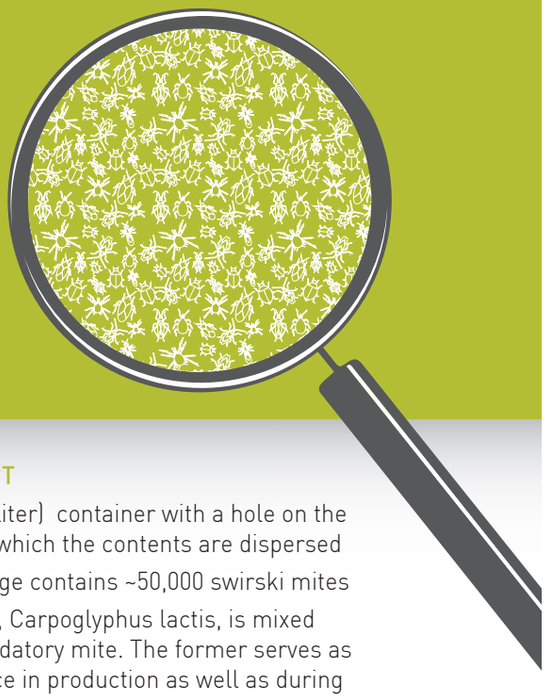
BioSwirskii



Amblyseius swirskii is a member of Phytoseiidae family of predatory mites. It is native to the eastern Mediterranean, including Israel where it is found in citrus groves. The swirskii mite is an efficient predator of young stages of the western flower thrips as well as the eggs and young nymphs of white flies. It also feeds on red spider mites as well as on broad mites. In the absence of prey it can survive on pollen and nectar from flowers.

The life-cycle of swirskii mite is similar to other predatory mites and includes: egg, larvae, 2 nymphal stages and adult. A single egg or egg cluster, of 2-6 eggs, are laid on the underside of leaf. On a pepper leaf for example, the swirskii mites lay their eggs along the main vein where it intersects with the secondary veins.

. The white oval shaped eggs change their color depending on the prey the mite is feeding upon. The developmental rate of swirskii mite depends on temperature, relative humidity and type of prey available.

This beneficial mite is active and reproductive at high temperatures and high relative humidity 79°F (26°C) and 70%, respectively). It does not hibernate and functions effectively, even on short days, if temperatures allow it.

CROPS

Greenhouse and outdoor vegetables, ornamentals and fruit trees

THE PRODUCT

- One quart (liter) container with a hole on the lid through which the contents are dispersed
- Each package contains ~50,000 swirski mites
- A prey mite, Carpoglyphus lactis, is mixed with the predatory mite. The former serves as a food source in production as well as during transport and shipment of the swirski product

APPLICATION AND HANDLING

The application is simple and safe:

- Disperse the swirskii mites over the plants as close as possible to their receipt
- If the product cannot be immediately released, store it in a cool place (at temperature 50°F and 60°F (10°C and 15°C). . In any case, use the product within 24 hours from the delivery
- Never leave closed containers under direct sunlight
- In certain, crops where flower pollen is available for the predatory mites to feed upon, it is possible to release them prophylactically, before the pest's occurance
- The amount and frequency of swirski to be released is determined by the type of the crop, environmental conditions, level of infestation and damage by the pest.

GENERAL

For combining BioSwirski with any chemical pesticide in the cropis, consult your BioBee's technical advisory representative.

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