

CRYPTOLAEMUS

Use: Cryptolaemus (cryp'-to-la'-mus) are often called "Mealybug Destroyers" because of their voracious appetite for mealybugs! They look small ladybugs with an orange head and tail and a black body. Their first choice is mealybugs, but they also eat aphids, immature scale, and immature whitefly.

Release: Gently shake the beetles directly on to infested plants in the evening of the same day received. If release must be delayed, store in a cool (60-65) dark area and smear a little honey on the inside of the lid of the container for food.

Coverage: Use about 10 beetles per tree, 2-5 per plant, or about 5 per square yard for planted area.

Life Cycle: The Cryptolaemus beetles will lay their amber colored eggs in the mealybug egg mass, and the eggs will hatch in 10-14 days. The larvae are hard to see at first, but grow rapidly as they also feed on mealybugs. They are alligator shaped and as they mature they develop a white waxy coating that makes it difficult to tell them apart from the mealybugs. However, this also helps them attack their prey. The entire cycle takes about 30 days.

Recommendations: Since ants are attracted to the honeydew secreted by mealybugs, it is important to control the ants before using the Cryptolaemus. Ants will actually attack the Cryptolaemus if they are in the area. If using indoors, keep in mind that the Cryptolaemus will be attracted to sources of light. Cryptolaemus are very susceptible to pesticides and they should not be used for at least two week prior to release.



Other Orcon Products Available:

Aphytis melinus	Flea Destroyer
Beneficial Nematodes	Fire Ant Control
Grub Control	Fungus Gnat Control
Trichogramma	Fly Parasites
Cryptolaemus	Green Lacewings
Decollate Snails	Lady Bugs
Delphastus	Praying Mantids
Earth Worms	Predatory Mites
Mason Bees	Ladybug House
Mason Bee Nest	Encarsia formosa
Ladybug/Lacewing Power Pack	



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