

ENCARSIA FORMOSA

USE: The Encarsia formosa is a parasite of the greenhouse whitefly, Trialeurodes vaporariorum, a pest of many plants in interior plantscapes and outdoor gardens. Greenhouse white fly are typically found on poinsettias, tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, and other plants that stay fairly close to the ground.

RELEASE: The Encarsia should be released as soon as possible, preferably when it is sunny and warm. Remove cards from container, separate along perforations, and hang on branches of plants in areas where white flies are present. If release must be delayed, keep the package out of sunlight and store at 40 to 50 degrees.

LIFE CYCLE: The Encarsia formosa are actually tiny wasps, about the size of a pencil dot, and they are completely harmless to people and pets. They attack only immature whitefly, called white fly scale. They do this by laying their eggs inside the scale. The eggs hatch, feed, and mature inside the scale, thereby killing it and turning it black. This takes 20 to 25 days. Then they emerge as adults, mate, and immediately begin parasitizing more white fly scale. They continue laying eggs during their 10 day adult life.

RECOMMENDATIONS: Be sure to release the Encarsia at the FIRST SIGNS of white fly. If the white fly population is already high, reduce it with insecticidal soap before releasing the Encarsia.

Since the Encarsia life cycle is about 30 days, most effective results are obtained when 3 releases are made at 1 week intervals. This way you have a constant force of Encarsia adults, and the offspring of the first release will be emerging about the time the adults from the last release are declining.

COVERAGE: Release at a rate of about 1 Encarsia per square foot of planted area, or 1 to 3 per plant, whichever is higher. There are at least 100 Encarsia on each card, 10 cards per strip.

GENERAL INFORMATION: White fly scales are white and are usually found on the underside of leaves. After they are parasitized, they turn black, and in a few more days, the adult Encarsia emerge from a small hole that you can see if you look carefully.

The white cards have black, parasitized, scales inside the circle. The Encarsia should begin emerging 2 to 10 days after receipt. The cards do not change in appearance after hatching. To verify hatching, use a magnifying glass or microscope to see the holes in the blackened scales on the card.

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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