



Hortus Technical Services

Hortus Technical Services is an independent agronomy company dedicated to providing efficient and cost-effective integrated pest management strategies to growers.

Due to overuse or inappropriate use of agricultural chemical the incidences of chemical resistance among pests and diseases are steadily increasing and are now common place . As the few remaining effective chemicals are used more frequently, so the risks of resistance developing to these remaining chemicals increases.

As a result, more growers are turning to alternative control options. The agronomists at Hortus are able to provide growers with a range of biological pest management options to better control pests using integrated pest management.

Hortus has a number of biological products available to growers for a wide array of pests, including:

- *Macadamia Nutborer*
- *Heliothis*
- *Silverleaf Whitefly*
- *Thrips*
- *Two-Spotted Mite*
- *Red Scale*
- *Aphids*
- *Queensland Fruit Fly*





CALIFORNICUS

(Neoseiulus californicus)

Control of Two Spotted Mite and Broad Mites

Californicus are a species of spider mite predator that prey on a number of pest mites, including: two spotted mites, broad mites and cyclamen mites. The Californicus mites are small, pale and pear shaped, usually found on the underside of the leaf.



Adult Californicus

BENEFITS

- ❖ Adult Californicus mites are aggressive and hardy predators, capable of withstanding a range of different temperatures and humidities
- ❖ Californicus are able to survive periods of low pest pressure, by feeding on pollen and alternative prey sources
- ❖ A female mite can feed on 5 two spotted mite eggs per day

DELIVERY

Californicus are supplied to growers in bottles that contain 10 000 mites.

Keeping the mites at cool temperatures (approximately 10 °C) will prevent them aging in transit and before paddock/greenhouse release.

APPLICATION

Actual release rates and timing are determined through monitoring. There are approximately 10 000 mites (adults, juveniles and eggs) per unit.

Release Rates:

- ❖ For established pest populations
3 releases of 10-20 bottles of mites per hectare, 1-2 weeks apart
- ❖ For preventative measures
3 releases of 5-10 bottles of mites per hectare, 2 weeks apart

Californicus mites can be used in conjunction with Persimilis mites; Californicus are capable of surviving in a wide range of climatic conditions

Caution must be taken with insecticide and some fungicide applications prior to, and after Montdorensis releases.



Two Spotted mites and eggs

INTERESTED?

Contact your local Hortus Technical Services for information concerning costs and distribution.

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