



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*





MONTDORENSIS

(*Typhlodromips montdorensis*)

Control of Thrips

Montdorensis are a species of predatory mite that feed on a number of thrips pests. They are a small and pear shaped. Often a pale colour, the colour of the Montdorensis mite changes depending on the prey that they have consumed; if they have been preying on thrips the mites have yellow colouring.



Adult Montdorensis

BENEFITS

- ❖ Montdorensis adults are capable of killing 14 thrips for each day of their adult stage (6-7 days) and females can lay more than 50 eggs during her life cycle.
- ❖ The mites can feed on pollen and honey dew when pest numbers are low; the mite population can continue over the season.
- ❖ Prefers thrips and silver leaf whitefly, but also feeds on spider mites, broad mites and tomato russet mites

DELIVERY

Montdorensis are supplied to growers in bottles that contain either 2 500 or 10 000 mites.

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



Adult Montdorensis feeding on a thrip

APPLICATION

Actual release rates and timing are determined through monitoring.

To determine an appropriate release rate, growers should consult with suppliers; however, a suggested starting rate is 10-20 mites per m². This equates to at least 10 10 000 mite units per hectare.

Montdorensis eggs have a high hatch rate as a relative humidity of 70%. Crops with good canopy development can reach this easily; however, young or small crops may require misting to raise humidity.

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



Montdorensis egg cluster

INTERESTED?

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

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