



## 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**





## Orius

(*Orius armatus*)

### Control of Thrips

Orius are a species of pirate bug capable of feeding on large numbers of thrips, at all stages of the pest's life cycle. Recommended application is inside greenhouse environments containing pollen-producing crops. These crops include: capsicums, strawberries, eggplants and cucumbers. Orius require pollen to establish a steady population; a stable population of this predatory insect has proven to be a very effective control measure for thrips.

### BENEFITS

- ❖ Orius are the only predatory bugs on the current market that feed on all stages of thrips (excluding the pupae)
- ❖ At 20 C°, Orius can feed on 2 thrips per day. In high pest pressure situations, the bugs will kill more thrips than they require nutritionally
- ❖ Orius are capable of flying, therefore they are able to spread easily throughout green houses and hunt for prey

### DELIVERY

Orius are sent to growers in plastic bottles containing 2000 individuals (adults and late instar juveniles). Before release, keep the bugs in darkness and at temperatures of 5-10 C°. Ensure that the bottles are kept on their sides and minimise agitation. For the best results, apply Orius within 18 hours of being received.



*Adult and juvenile Orius*

### APPLICATION

Orius should be applied during cooler parts of the early morning or during the evenings. Also, should be avoided and the vents in greenhouses Orius are winged insects, if the vents are open, through the vents, towards the source of the

The bottle should be opened inside the horizontal whilst being applied. Distribute the the foliage with some focus on the flowers. Gently rotate the bottle to ensure an even distribution. bottles should contain around 50 release points approximately 500m².

#### Release Rates:

Low Thrips Pressure – 7 Orius/m²

High Thrips Pressure – 10-20 Orius/m²

For crop specific release rates, contact your local consultant.

### INTERESTED?

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

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