



## 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*



### OVI-TRIX

#### *Trichogrammatoidea pretiosum*

OVI-TRIX are tiny parasitic wasps (<0.5mm in length) that lay their eggs in the eggs of the Heliothis Moth. During development, the wasps destroy the immature Heliothis larvae before the wasps emerge from the egg as adults. This action prevents a large pest pressure from developing!

### BENEFITS

- ❖ OVI-TRIX wasps are highly-focused predators, intent on finding and parasitising Heliothis eggs
- ❖ Female wasps are able to parasitise up to 50 Heliothis eggs over their life span (approximately 2 weeks)
- ❖ Some of the wasp population may survive over the winter period, reducing pest pressure for the next season



*Stages of Parasitised Heliothis Eggs*

### DELIVERY

OVI-TRIX are dispatched in capsules that contain parasitised Heliothis Eggs. There are approximately 1000 parasitised eggs per capsule. The wasps are dispatched within 24-48 hours and to emerge 1-2 days after arrival. In order to reduce the risk of loses (through predation from ants), the release cards should be placed in the paddock within the 24 hours before the wasps emerge.



*Late Stage of Parasitised Heliothis Egg*



*Mature Trichogrammatoidea wasp*

### APPLICATION

The number of wasps applied per hectare depends on the level of pest pressure, determined through monitoring. Ovi-Trix should be applied at the first sign of Heliothis eggs. In order to establish a steady population of wasps, there should be two releases with in a 5-7 day period. The adults of the first release will survive for 7 days and the next generation will emerge 9 days after application. The second release ensures that wasps are still present.

When applying the wasps to the paddock, cards should be stapled to leaves or inside corn whorls. Positioning the cards on the wind side of the paddock will help them move downwind.

#### Release Rates:

Ovitrix are supplied in sheets of 60 capsules. Each capsule contains approximately 1000 wasps.

#### Tree and Vine Crops

- ❖ 60-120 capsules per hectare

#### Horticultural Crops (e.g. Tomatoes)

- ❖ 50-150 capsules per hectare

#### Sweet Corn

- ❖ 50-200 capsules per hectare

#### Enclosed Areas

- ❖ 10-20 capsules per 1000m<sup>2</sup>

### INTERESTED?

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

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