

## *Amblyseius cucumeris*



These predators are pear-shaped, pale tan and active mites. They are noticeably smaller and flattened compared to *Phytoseiulus*. They lay smaller eggs which are white whereas the eggs of spider mite predators are tinted with brown. A major advantage of *Amblyseius* is that, unlike *Phytoseiulus*, it can survive the absence of its prey by taking other food, such as spider mite nymphs or pollen. Although the numbers of predators declines after control has been achieved, the proportion of leaves on which *Amblyseius* can be found remains high for some weeks.

### **STORAGE**

*Amblyseius* should be released as soon as possible. However, if you must store them for a day or two before release, they should NOT be refrigerated. Instead, store them in a cool area at 60° – 70° F.

### **RELEASE**

Each CRS sachet is made of special non - porous paper, and contains a breeding colony of the predatory mite together with another mite, which serves as a food source. *Amblyseius cucumeris* emerge over an extended period at a regular rate, ensuring the continuous presence of predators on the crop throughout the life of the sachet. The average recorded emergence is approximately 400 mites per sachet per week, giving a total release of over 2,400 mites over the life of the sachet. Numbers will vary depending on temperature and conditions of use. Because the mites are emerging continuously, there is no need for them to establish on the target crop for them to offer thrips control. *Amblyseius* prefer fairly high relative humidity levels. They should be released at the rate of at least 1 predator per square foot, two weeks after transplanting. Repeat applications every month during periods of warm, dry weather. Hang these from the stems of the crop or the strings so that they remain in the shade. Replace the sachets every six to eight weeks to ensure protection of your crop. Low humidity can reduce sachet life, so hang them away from heating pipes and out of direct sunlight. Sachets must be applied preventively and used at the recommended spacing and frequency. Independent research has shown that early use can prevent damage on cucumber foliage, but even a two-week delay in application can allow damaging populations to develop with a consequent loss of 20% of the leaf area. The bran material contains eggs, nymphs and adult *Amblyseius*. Sprinkle approximately ¼ teaspoon of the bran material on the top foliage of your plants throughout the area of suspected thrips infestation. The *Amblyseius* will begin searching for thrips eggs and nymphs.

If you have received “sachets”, tear the left corner off the top of the sachet, this will create an exit hole. Hang the sachet in your plants. The *Amblyseius* will continue to exit the “sachet” during the next few weeks.

Other Thrips controls include:

- Yellow or Blue Sticky Cards
- Beneficial Nematodes
- Orius (Minute Pirate Bug)