

The new predatory mite *Amblyseius andersoni* offers excellent perspectives in ornamental and fruit crops, tree nurseries and protected horticulture for the control of pest mites.

PREY

The predatory mite *Amblyseius andersoni* eats many different pest mites such as spider mite, gall mite, and russet mite. Main target pests are red spider mite (*Tetranychus urticae*), European red mite (*Panonychus ulmi*), apple rust mite (*Aculus schlechtendali*) and boxwood bud mite (*Eriophyes canestrinii*). Spider mites are present on a large number of host plants where they can cause a lot of damage resulting in discoloration of the leaves and formation of webs. Besides the aesthetic damage, spider mites also cause growth inhibition. Gall and russet mites are minuscule and barely visible with a regular magnifier lens. Russet mites cause a brown discoloration of the leaves and gall mites cause malformations. When noticing the damages, the pest mites are already present in large numbers.

A. andersoni does not only feed on harmful mites, but also on thrips, pollen, honeydew and fungi.

AMBLYSEIUS ANDERSONI

Typhlodromus (Amblyseius) potentillae or *Amblyseius (Euseius) andersoni* are the different names used to indicate this predatory mite. It is an indigenous species in Southern and Western Europe and is naturally present in several biotopes such as vineyards and orchards. The predatory mites become active at 6 °C - 8 °C, as most spider mites do. By introducing *A. andersoni* early it is not necessary to wait until the pest appear spontaneously to control it. Because *A. andersoni* is a polyphagous mite, it easily finds an alternative food source to maintain itself compared to predatory mites that prefer just one prey. Another advantage is that they can survive even in absence of prey and still prevent any possible outbreak. When the pest has been eradicated, *A. andersoni*-predatory mites can starve for a while, but still form a threat to other preys. When the prey of other predatory mites is gone their population immediately decreases considerably.

FORMULATIONS AND DOSAGES

Biobest delivers *A. andersoni* in the following formulations:

Andersoni-System:

The predatory mites are delivered per 25.000 individuals in practical 1 liter cardboard tubes. The composition of the carrier consists of bran with a factitious prey.

Depending on the crop and pest level disperse at least 20 to a maximum of 100 predatory mites per m².

Andersoni-Breeding-System:

The predatory mites can also be released in the crop by means of breeding sachets. 1 box contains 250 sachets. Each sachet contains a minimum of 250 *A. andersoni* predatory mites in a carrier of bran and feeder mites as an alternative food source. Over a period of several weeks thousands of predatory mites will progressively emerge from only one sachet via the pre-punched hole and gradually spread throughout the crop. There is no need to open the sachet.

Hang 1 sachet every 2 meters in a row of plants. If necessary, repeat introduction after 6 weeks to maintain a continuous presence of *A. andersoni* in the crop.

Note: Introduction of *Phytoseiulus persimilis* in hot spots is a favorable addition.

CONSERVATION AND STORAGE LIFE

The ideal storage temperature is 15 °C. At this temperature the mites stay in optimal condition for at least one week. It is nevertheless recommended to release them in the crop within 18 hours. Lower storage temperatures can have a negative influence on the conservation of *A. andersoni*.

ADVANTAGES

- Wide range of prey mites
- Applicable in protected as well as outdoor crops
- Applicable in tree nurseries, ornamental, fruit and vegetable crops
- Temperature tolerance of 6 °C to 40 °C