

TECHNICAL SHEET

FALLACIS-SYSTEM



Prey



Neoseiulus (Amblyseius) fallacis is a polyphagous predatory mite, meaning that it feeds on a variety of prey mites and on all its prey life stages. It prefers to feed on two spotted spider mites (*Tetranychus urticae*), pacific mites (*T. pacificus*), spruce spider mites (*Oligonychus unuguis*), bamboo mites (*Schizotetranychus celarius*) and European red mites (*Panonychus ulmi*). In absence of preferred mites it also feeds on pollen and to a certain degree on apple rust mites (*Aculus schlechtendali*), tomato rust mites (*Aculops lycopersici*) and cyclamen mites (*Steneotarsonemus pallidus*).

Crops

A. fallacis is a biocontrol agent in greenhouse sweet peppers, eggplants, strawberries, raspberries, currants and mint. It is also used in container and field-grown nursery stocks and woody ornamentals.

Neoseiulus (Amblyseius) Fallacis

Appearance

The 0.5 mm pear-shaped adults are tan to light orange colored and shiny. The immature stages are cream colored and semi-transparent. Eggs are oval and around 0.3 mm long; this is twice the size of two-spotted spider mite eggs.

Life cycle and feeding behavior

Development from egg to adult takes around 1 week at 21°C (70°F) and 3 days at 32°C (85°F). The adult females can lay 1 to 5 eggs per day in and around the hotspots, for a total of 30-60 eggs over an average life span of 3-4 weeks. The eggs hatch in 2-3 days. The larvae do not feed till they reach the nymph stage after approximately 1 day. Both nymph and adults feed on all stages of prey and can eat up to 16 prey per day. *A. fallacis* can remain in the crop even with lower spider mite densities and disperse when prey become scarce. They survive by feeding on other prey and pollen, therefore they are highly suitable for preventive and curative introduction.

Conditions

Compared to other predatory mites, *A. fallacis* performs and reproduces over a wider range of temperatures (9 - 32 °C) (50 - 85 °F) and a relative humidity of min. 50%. *A. fallacis* will even feed far out of its optimal conditions: down to temperatures as low as 2°C (35°F), and up to 37°C (100°F). At daylight length of less than 14 hour *A. fallacis* will enter in diapause, but this should not be the case in protected crops if temperatures are kept above 18°C (64°F).

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Application

Dosage

Application	Dosage (/m ²)	Interval	Sequence	Release area
Preventive	5 - 10	monthly	If necessary	In susceptible / suspicious areas
Light curative	10 - 30	weekly	x 2 - 4	On infested plants and hot spots
High curative	30 or higher	weekly	x 3 - 4	On infested plants and hotspots

Release method

A. fallacis can be manually released on the crops.

To homogenize the content, gently rotate the package. Open the lid of the package first and sprinkle the mites over the leaves of the infested plants.

Mechanical introduction is also possible with the use of the Biobolo.

It is preferable to release the mites in the morning or late afternoon when the sunlight and day temperatures are less intense.

Combined releases

In protected crops, where temperatures are over 22°C (72°F) and the relative humidity over 60%, is the combination with *Phytoseiulus persimilis* and/or *Feltiella acarisuga* highly recommended, especially in areas with high prey densities.

Packaging

Fallacis-System is available in the following formulations:

- 100 ml plastic tube with 2.000 mites in a sawdust carrier.
- 500 ml bottle with 10.000 mites in a sawdust carrier.

Storage

Fallacis-System can be held in a dark place with sufficient ventilation, at a temperature of 8 – 10 °C (46 - 50°F).

Under these storage conditions Fallacis-System remains good until the expiry date mentioned on the label.

It is recommended to release the mites as soon as possible after delivery. Storage for longer period will affect the quality.

Advantages

1. Applicable in many crops
2. A generalistic spider mite predator
3. Able to survive on pollen
4. Higher tolerance to lower temperatures
5. Higher tolerance to lower humidity
6. Able to reproduce in colder climates
7. Able to build up a population in conditions of low prey densities