

Trichogramma Wasps

Product Guide

Questions? Contact us at (888) 784-1722 or helpdesk@groworganic.com

Biology

The Trichogramma wasp is found in North America, South America, Europe, and the former Soviet Union. The adult is less than one millimeter in length, with a yellowish body. The Trichogramma female lays one or more of its eggs inside the much larger eggs of Lepidoptera, the insect order which includes pest moths, such as codling moth, corn earworm, sugar cane borer, cutworm, leaf worm, armyworm, cabbage looper, peach twig borer, oriental fruit moth, omnivorous leaf roller and many others. Trichogramma adults are among the smallest of insects (1/50" wingspan). Despite this, they can destroy the eggs of over 200 species of moths and butterflies. This makes Trichogramma particularly effective since no worm or caterpillar hatches from the egg - only another Trichogramma wasp. During an 8 to 11 day life, the adult female can seek out and destroy about 50 pest eggs by laying her egg inside the pest egg. Her egg then hatches into a larva, which then consumes the contents of the pest egg. A new Trichogramma adult then emerges in 8-12 days, depending on the climate.

Release Instructions

Begin releases when moths are first detected and continue with weekly releases as long as moths persist. Timing is critical for good pest egg control. Pheromone traps can greatly help moth detection. Your Trichogramma will arrive still developing inside moth eggs. These eggs are held on 30 paper-hanging sections. Depending on shipping conditions, adults will begin to emerge 1 - 3 days after arrival. The adults are quite small and appear as moving dark specks. For best results, allow some adults to emerge before release. Avoid releasing during the heat of the day. Early morning or late evening releases are best.

When emergence is observed, simply place the opened container out of direct sunlight and in an area where moths are observed or suspected. In trees, staple or tie the container to the tree as high as possible. In both ground crops and trees, ants can be a problem, as they will readily feed on the eggs. If ants are present, the individual sections should be suspended from the plant by a thread. If ants are not present, the individual sections may be directly attached to the plant.

Regular releases during periods when moths are present have proven to be most effective. Change release sites for each release. Monitor pest populations to avoid excessive pest populations. If moth activity continues or increases, release more Trichogramma at regular intervals. Once caterpillars are present in excessive numbers, other control measures may be necessary.

It should be noted that Trichogramma wasps cannot provide a "quick fix" in cases of severe infestation. They do not kill caterpillars; neither will they eradicate all caterpillars from your growing area. They can be expected to maintain pest populations at low levels, if releases are timed correctly. Lacewings, which attack caterpillar eggs and adults, are good to use with Trichogramma, as a second line of defense.