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Cryptolaemus montrouzieri Predator Adults For Mealybug Control - Application Instructions

Please use immediately upon receipt

Required conditions:

- Temperatures must be over 18°C for the Mealybug Predator Adults to be active. The optimal conditions for their development are between 22-25°C
- *Cryptolaemus* adults are more active in sunny conditions and inactive at low temperatures
- They should only be used on indoor crops and plants
- Do not apply Mealybug Predator Adults if insecticides have been used in the past 1-2 weeks

Before application:

- Shut any vents, or windows, prior to release for a few hours. This prevents predators escaping and flying outside (if it is too hot to shut vents or windows, apply the predators in the evening)
- Ensure to introduce when the predators when Mealybugs are present on plants

Application:

- Open predator container in greenhouse and close to Mealybug infestation. Leave the container on, or in, the plant foliage
- If the predators do not exit within a few minutes, use a small paint brush to gently move them out of the container
- Repeat applications may be required for heavy infestations. Try releasing the adult predators in several locations that Mealybug is present. Consider supplementing with ***Cryptolaemus Mealybug Predator larvae*** which are easier to apply to specific Mealybug infestations

Next Steps:

- After release it can be difficult to locate the adults as they may hide in foliage and crevices
- Female predators will lay eggs in, or near, Mealybug egg sacks. These hatch after 10 days & have four larval stages (which feed on Mealybugs and are similar in colour and appearance). The larvae then pupate into adult beetles. This process (at 21°C) takes about 50 days
- If there is a need to apply disease control products, such as for powdery mildew, avoid traditional Sulphur products as can be harmful to predators. **Sulphur Boost** from Dragonfli contains a liquid formulation that is much safer to use when beneficial insects present