

Mail order suppliers of biological control for home gardeners

RHS Gardening Advice
March 2018



Sharing the best in Gardening

How and what to order

When contacting mail order firms, describe:

- the size of the greenhouse or area to be treated
- main type of plants grown
- the pests and extent of the infestation

These factors will determine the quantity of predators, parasites (parasitoids) or nematode product required.

The different biological controls are compatible with each other and may be introduced either singly or in combination as required by the pests present. Better control is sometimes achieved by a number of introductions over a period of several weeks, rather than a single introduction, especially with parasites.




Biological controls can sometimes be ordered or purchased through garden centres but most are supplied by mail order: being living animals with limited lifespans, most cannot be stocked in retail outlets.

The **supplier's instructions** regarding release and subsequent care of the predators or parasites **must be followed carefully**. Application instructions for nematode products should also be followed. Sachet formations of nematodes for vine weevil larvae, chafer grubs and leatherjackets in lawns which have a longer shelf life are marketed by Neudorff. These are available from some plant centres

The firms listed below can supply, subject to availability, the following biological controls.




Pests and the available biological control options

Pest(s)	Biological Control	Suppliers
Ants	Ant nest nematode – <i>Steinernema feltiae</i>	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
Aphids (various species)	a) Aphid midge – <i>Aphidoletes aphidimyza</i> b) Aphid parasitoids* – <i>Aphidius</i> , <i>Praon</i> or <i>Aphelinus</i> c) Lacewing larvae - <i>Chrysoperla carnea</i> d) Two-spot ladybird – <i>Adalia bipunctata</i> e) Rove beetle – <i>Atheta coriaria</i> f) Hoverfly larvae – <i>Sphaerophoria rueppellii</i>	1, 2, 3, 5 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 1, 3, 5 1
Cabbage white eggs	Parasitoid – <i>Trichogramma brassicae</i>	3
Carrot fly	a) [Spring] <i>Steinernema feltiae</i> nematode b) [Summer] <i>S. carpocapsae</i> nematode	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8 1, 3, 4, 5, 6
Caterpillars (including cutworms)	Egg parasitoid – <i>Trichogramma</i> spp. Nemasys Fruit and veg nematodes containing <i>Steinernema feltiae</i> and <i>S. carpocapsae</i>	1, 3, 5 4, 3, 6
Chafer grubs in lawns	Chafer grub nematode – <i>Heterorhabditis bacteriophora</i>	All
Citrus red spider mite (<i>Panonychus citri</i>)	Citrus spider mite predator – <i>Amblyseius</i> species	3, 4, 5
Diaspid scales (Glasshouse)	Ladybird – <i>Chilocorus nigritus</i>	2, 3

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Pest(s)	Biological Control	Suppliers
Fungus gnats/sciarid flies	a) Fungus gnat mite – <i>Hypoaspis miles</i> b) Fungus gnat nematode – <i>Steinernema feltiae</i> c) Mighty Mite – <i>Macrocheles robustulus</i> d) Rove beetle – <i>Atheta coriaria</i> e) Predatory Mite – <i>Stratiolaelaps scimitus</i>	1, 2, 3, 5 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8 3 1, 5 6
Glasshouse mealybugs (<i>Pseudococcus</i> and <i>Planococcus</i> spp.)	a) Mealybug ladybird – <i>Cryptolaemus montrouzieri</i> b) Mealybug parasites* – <i>Leptomastix</i> & <i>Leptomastidea</i> sp., combined with <i>Cryptolaemus</i> c) Mealybug parasites* – <i>Leptomastix</i> & <i>Anagrus</i> sp.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 1, 3 2, 3
Glasshouse red (two spotted) spider mite (<i>Tetranychus urticae</i>)	a) Predatory mites – <i>Amblyseius</i> species b) Glasshouse red spider mite predator – <i>Phytoseiulus persimilis</i> c) Glasshouse red spider predatory mite midge – <i>Feltiella acarisuga</i> c) Rove beetle – <i>Atheta coriaria</i>	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 1, 5 1, 3, 5
Glasshouse whitefly (<i>Trialeurodes vaporariorum</i>)	Glasshouse whitefly parasitoid – <i>Encarsia formosa</i>	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
Leatherjackets	a) Leatherjacket nematode – <i>Steinernema feltiae</i> b) Leatherjacket nematode – <i>S. carpocapsae</i>	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 9
Slugs	Slug nematode – <i>Phasmarhabditis hermaphrodita</i>	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8
Scale – soft (<i>Coccus</i> <i>hesperidium</i>) and hemispherical (<i>Saissetia</i> <i>coffae</i>)	a) Soft scale parasitoids* – <i>Metaphycus</i> spp, <i>Encyrtus</i> spp. & <i>Encarsia citrina</i> b) Nematode - <i>Steinernema feltiae</i>	3 1, 4, 5, 7
Tarsonemid mite	Predatory mite – <i>Amblyseius cucumeris</i>	1, 2, 3
Thrips (various species)	a) Predatory mite – <i>Amblyseius</i> species b) Predatory mite – <i>Hypoaspis</i> species c) Mighty Mite – <i>Macrocheles robustulus</i> d) Predatory bug – <i>Orius laevigatus</i> e) Nemasys Fruit and veg nematodes containing <i>Steinernema feltiae</i> & <i>S. carpocapsae</i>	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 1, 3, 4, 5 1, 3, 5, 3, 5 4
Vine weevil larvae (<i>Otiorhynchus sulcatus</i>)	a) Vine weevil nematode – <i>Steinernema kraussei</i> b) Vine weevil nematode – <i>Heterorhabditis megidis</i> c) Vine weevil nematode – <i>H. bacteriophora</i> d) Vine weevil nematode – <i>H. downesi</i>	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 1, 3, 5 9
Vine weevil adults	Nematop Adult Vine Weevil trap (contains <i>Steinernema carpocapsae</i>)	4, 7, 8
Various vegetable pests (including caterpillars)	Mixed nematodes 'Fruit and Vegetable Protection'	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8
Wireworm - nematodes	Nematode – <i>Heterorhabditis bacteriophora</i>	1, 4, 5

* It is advisable to enquire about availability of these biological controls before placing an order and it may be worthwhile to send the supplier samples of the pest on its host plants in a dry polythene bag and crush-proof container to ensure that they are species that can be dealt with by the biological control.

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Suppliers/Distributors

Company Name	Address	Contact	Website
1. Agralan Ltd	The Old Brickyard, Ashton Keynes, Swindon, Wiltshire SN6 6QR	T: 01285 860015 E: sales@agralan.co.uk	www.agralan.co.uk
2. Defenders (marketed by WyeBugs)	WyeBugs, Occupation Road, Wye, Ashford, Kent TN25 5EN	T: 01233 813130 E: help@defenders.co.uk	www.defenders.co.uk
3. Dragonfli Ltd	Unit 1 Griggs Business Centre, West Street, Coggeshall Essex CO6 1NT	T: 01376 563322 E: sales@dragonfli.co.uk	www.dragonfli.co.uk
4. Green Gardener	Chandlers End, Mill Road, Stokesby, Great Yarmouth NR29 3EY	T: 01493 750061 E: jon@greengardener.co.uk	www.greengardener.co.uk
5. Ladybird Plantcare	The Glasshouses, Fletching Common, Newick, Lewes, East Sussex BN8 4JJ	T: 01825 724621 E: plantcare@ladybirdplantcare.co.uk	www.ladybirdplantcare.co.uk
6. Organic Gardening Catalogue	Riverdene Business Park, Molesey Road, Hersham, Surrey KT12 4RG	T: 01932 253666 E: enquiries@organiccatalogue.com	www.organiccatalogue.com
7. Pippa Greenwood	99 Wey Hill, Haslemere, Surrey GU27 1HT	E: info@pippagreenwood.com	www.pippagreenwood.com
8. Simply seed	Moor Lane, Gotham, Nottingham NG11 0LH	T: 0115 7270606 E: help@simplyseed.co.uk	www.simplyseed.co.uk
9. Bionema	Room Number 009, Institute of Life Science, 1 Singleton Park, Swansea University, Swansea SA2 8PP	T: 01792 606916 E: info@bionema.com	www.bionema.com

Sachets of nematodes for sale in plant centres and other retail outlets are marketed by

Neudorff, Neudorff UK Limited, Vienna House, Birmingham International Park, Solihull B37 7GN.
www.neudorff.co.uk Tel: 0121 767 1821

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