

## Fly Parasites – Frequently Asked Questions Answered

### *About Fly Parasites:*

- Fly parasites attack the developing fly pupae, they will not attack adult flies
- These tiny parasites are nocturnal and burrow into manure, so they are rarely seen after being released
- The parasitic wasps are harmless to humans and livestock and do not bite or sting
- Fly parasites should only be used as part of an Integrated Fly Management Program
- It may take 4 - 6 weeks before there is a noticeable reduction in fly populations. Despite the use of fly parasites, fly traps or baits and good manure management should be used

### *When should I release Fly Parasites?*

- Releases should start early in the spring before flies become a serious problem
- Initially, a schedule of bi-weekly releases is recommended. This can be changed to monthly releases later in the season as long as fly populations remain low
- Once the product is received, the parasites should be kept at room temperature until a few dozen insects can be seen actively crawling around in the pouch. ***Do not keep in direct sunlight (heat) and keep from freezing or the wasps will perish before they are able to hatch!***
- Release shortly after receipt is recommended, but if it is not feasible, keep the pouch sealed in a cool (not cold) area. Emergence should be delayed for no more than a few days. Release as soon as possible.

### *How Do I Release the Parasites?*

- Release fly parasites in all potential fly breeding sites (including around barns, compost piles, manure pits/piles, etc.)
- Take a small handful of wood shavings and pupae and sprinkle them onto the most obvious fly breeding areas. To get the most even coverage possible, start releases in different locations with each new shipment.
- **Do not release the parasites into standing water or wet manure.** They will not survive. Instead, concentrate on drying up all the wet areas to eliminate favourable breeding sites for flies.
- Adult Fly Parasites can travel up to a 30 meter (100 yards) radius searching for fly pupae to lay their eggs on

### *How Many Fly Parasites Do I Need?*

- Every situation is different. In general, you should make bi-weekly releases of:

#### Horse, Sheep, Llamas, Goats

1 – 15 animals: 1 colony (15K)

16 – 30 animals: 25K

31 – 100 animals: 4 – 10 25K

#### Dairy cows, feedlot cattle

250 fly parasites per animal, minimum 1 – 25K every 2 weeks

Small operations minimum 1 – 5K every 2 weeks

#### Poultry

6 fly parasites per bird

#### Calf hutches, Swine

1000 fly parasites per animal

400 or more animals, use 500 per animal ratio

#### Manure

1 – 5K per 10 cubic feet

- These numbers are based on starting parasite releases before flies become a serious problem, exercising good manure management and sanitation practices, and avoiding the use of insecticides in parasite release areas. Larger releases may be required if these conditions are not met.

***Tips for Successful Fly Management:***

- Start releasing fly parasites before flies become a problem in the spring and continue releases throughout the entire fly season
- Do not leave insect shipment in direct sunlight, hot or freezing temperatures
- Avoid the use of chemical insecticides in the fly parasite release areas or you will wipe out the beneficial wasp population
- Use bait traps, light traps or sticky tapes to reduce the area's adult fly populations
- Implement good manure management and sanitation techniques. These efforts will not only reduce fly breeding sites, but will promote the establishment and survival of fly parasites.

***How Do I Order Fly Parasites?***

- Fly Parasites are available in 4 package sizes:
  - 5,000
  - 15,000 (colony)
  - 25,000
  - Bulk (15 colonies, 225,000)
- Regular orders are done on a schedule of every 2 weeks in Fly Season (typically starting in late March – mid-April, weather depending). If required, exceptions may be made for weekly orders\*.
- Volume discount pricing is available

\*Minimum orders may apply

To order, please contact the Sales Desk:

Cody Cruise                      Office 604-864-9044 (ext. 182)  
    Toll-Free 1-800-661-4559

Or your Terralink Representative.

Stop by and see us at 464 Riverside Road, Abbotsford, BC