

Mail order suppliers of biological control for home gardeners

RHS Gardening Advice August 2021



How and what to order

Suppliers will usually provide advice on suitable products. When contacting firms, describe:

- the size of the greenhouse or area to be treated
- main type of plants grown
- the problem and its extent
- growing conditions (an image can be useful)

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

The different biological controls are usually compatible with each other and may be introduced either singly or in combination as required by the problem. Better control is sometimes achieved by a number of introductions over a period of several weeks, rather than a single introduction, especially with parasitoids. Biological controls are incompatible with most synthetic pesticides and these should be avoided for at least six weeks prior to introduction.

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**. Most products should be used immediately upon receipt. Application instructions for nematode products should be followed.


Nematode formulations available at some plant centres and other retail outlets

Two brands of nematode biological controls that have a longer shelf life are available from some plant centres in formulations. These control are available for ant, slug, fungus gnat, vine weevil larvae, chafer grubs and leatherjackets. These either come as sachets (Neudorff brand: Nb in suppliers list) or encapsulated formulations (NemaKnights™: Nk in suppliers list).

The firms listed below can supply, subject to availability, the biological controls below. The list is based on that supplied by the companies listed. In most cases the brand names of products have not been listed. This list is not exhaustive and other companies may exist as may other biocontrols.



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, Nb, Nk
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) Rove beetle – <i>Atheta coriaria</i> e) Two-spot ladybird – <i>Adalia bipunctata</i>	3 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 1, 3, 4, 5, 3, 5 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
Broad mite	a) Predatory mite – <i>Amblyseius andersonii</i>	3
Carrot fly	a) [Spring] <i>S. feltiae</i> nematode b) [Summer] <i>S. carpocapsae</i> nematode	3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9

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Pest(s)	Biological Control	Suppliers
Caterpillars (including box tree moth, cabbage whites, codling moth, cutworms, plum fruit moth)	Various products containing – <i>S. feltiae</i> and <i>S. carpocapsae</i> including Nemasys Fruit and Veg protection nematodes	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9
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
Chrysanthemum leafminer (<i>Chromatomyia syngenesiae</i>)	Leafminer nematode – <i>S. feltiae</i>	9
Diaspid scales (Glasshouse)	Ladybird – <i>Chilocorus nigritus</i>	2, 3
Fuchsia gall mite	Predatory mite – <i>Amblyseius andersonii</i>	3, 4
Fungus gnats/sciarid flies	a) Fungus gnat mite – <i>Hypoaspis miles</i> b) Fungus gnat nematode – <i>S. feltiae</i> c) Mighty Mite – <i>Macrocheles robustulus</i> d) Rove beetle – <i>Atheta coriaria</i>	2, 3, 4, 5, 6 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, Nk 3, 6 3, 5
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>Anagyrus</i> sp. d) Lacewing larvae – <i>Chrysoperla carnea</i>	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 3 2, 3 4, 5
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 midge – <i>Feltiella acarisuga</i> c) Rove beetle – <i>Atheta coriaria</i>	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 5 5
Glasshouse whitefly (<i>Trialeurodes vaporariorum</i>)	a) Glasshouse whitefly parasitoid – <i>Encarsia formosa</i> b) Predatory mite <i>Amblyseius andersonii</i> as whitefly egg predator	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 3
Leatherjackets	a) Leatherjacket nematode – <i>S. feltiae</i> b) Leatherjacket nematode – <i>S. carpocapsae</i>	All 3, 9
Slugs	Slug nematode – <i>Phasmarhabditis hermaphrodita</i>	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, Nd, Nk
Scale – soft (<i>Coccus hesperidum</i>) & hemispherical (<i>Saissetia coffeae</i>)	Nematode – <i>S. feltiae</i>	1, 4, 5, 7
Tarsonemid mite	Predatory mite – <i>Amblyseius cucumeris</i>	2, 3, 4, 5, 6
Thrips (various species)	a) Mighty Mite – <i>Macrocheles robustulus</i> b) Nemasys Fruit and veg nematodes containing <i>S. feltiae</i> & <i>S. carpocapsae</i> c) Predatory bug – <i>Orius laevigatus</i> d) Predatory mite – <i>Amblyseius</i> species e) Predatory mite – <i>Hypoaspis</i> species	3, 5, 6 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9 3 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 3, 4, 5
Vine weevil larvae (<i>Otiorhynchus sulcatus</i>)	a) Vine weevil nematode – <i>S. feltiae</i> b) Vine weevil nematode – <i>S. kraussei</i> c) Vine weevil nematode – <i>H. bacteriophora</i> d) Vine weevil nematode – <i>H. megidis</i> e) Combined vine weevil nematodes – <i>H. bacteriophora</i> & <i>S. feltiae</i> f) Combined vine weevil (encapsulated) – <i>S. kraussei</i> & <i>S. feltiae</i>	3 All 1, 3, 9 5 9 Nk
Vine weevil adults	Adult Vine Weevil trap (contains <i>Steinernema carpocapsae</i>)	4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9
Various vegetable pests (including gooseberry sawfly)	Nemasys Fruit and Veg Protection nematodes – containing <i>S. feltiae</i> and <i>S. carpocapsae</i>	4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9
Various beetles including vine weevil and asparagus beetle	Nematode – <i>S. carpocapsae</i>	3
Wireworm	Nematode – <i>H. bacteriophora</i>	4, 5, 9

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Suppliers/Distributors

Company	Address	Contact	Website
1. Agralan Ltd	The Old Brickyard, Ashton Keynes, Swindon, Wiltshire SN6 6QR	T: 01285 860015 E: sales@agralan.co.uk	agralan.co.uk
2. Defenders (marketed by WyeBugs)	WyeBugs, Occupation Road, Wye, Ashford, Kent TN25 5EN	T: 01233 813130 E: help@defenders.co.uk	defenders.co.uk
3. Dragonfli Ltd	Unit 5 Cherrytree Farm, Wethersfield Rd, Sible Hedingham, Essex CO9 3LZ	T: 01376 563322 E: sales@dragonfli.co.uk	dragonfli.co.uk
4. Green Gardener	B12 Base Business Park, Rendlesham Suffolk IP12 2TW	T: 01493 750061 E: jon@greengardener.co.uk	greengardener.co.uk
5. Ladybird Plantcare	Vantage Point, Brighton, East Sussex BN1 4GU	T: 01825 724621 E: plantcare@ladybirdplantcare.co.uk	ladybirdplantcare.co.uk
6. Organic Gardening Catalogue	Long Road, Paignton, Devon TQ4 7SX	T: 0844 967 0330 E: enquiries@organiccatalogue.com	organiccatalogue.com
7. Pippa Greenwood	99 Wey Hill, Haslemere, Surrey GU27 1HT	E: info@pippagreenwood.com	pippagreenwood.com
8. Simply Seed	Moor Lane, Gotham, Nottingham NG11 0LH	T: 0115 7270606 E: help@simplyseed.co.uk	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	bionema.com

Formulations of nematodes available in some plant centres and other retail outlets

Nd. Neudorff	DLF Seeds Ltd Thorn Farm, Evesham Road, Inkberrow, Worcestershire WR7 4LJ	T: 01386 791113 E: info@johnsonslawnseed.co.uk	www.dlf.co.uk
Nk. NemaKnights™	Decco Ltd, Votec House, Hambridge Lane, Newbury, Berkshire RG14 5TN		www.decco.co.uk

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