



# Encarsia Formosa

Encarsia formosa is a parasitic wasp used in the biological controlling of several whiteflies, like Greenhouse whitefly and Tobacco whitefly. A female adult is small, 0.6 mm in length, has a black head and thorax with yellow abdomen. The larval stages will develop inside the host.

## Life cycle & relative effectiveness

Female adults are able to produce more than 200 eggs during their lifetime. After parasitizing, the parasite will develop inside the whitefly. Midway through the development of encarsia within the whitefly, the scale turns dark. Due to normal climatic conditions, this process will take approximately 10 days. After another 10 days, the encarsia emerges from the parasitized scale.

## Package & volume

Encarsia formosa can be supplied in different ways. Strips with parasitized whitefly pupae (3.000 or 15.000) or bottles (25.000) containing parasitic wasps.

## Storage & handling

Keep the bottles (horizontally) and strips in darkness, at a temperature between 8°C and 10°C. Maximum storage of two days.

## Application & dose

Encarsia formosa is most active at a minimum average daily temperature of 17°C. In case of strips, packaging should be done inside of the greenhouse. Place these strips about 75 cm. below the top. Avoid direct sunlight. Please note that the pupae should not be touched to avoid collateral damage.

	Rate	Interval	Frequency	Remark
Preventive	1 – 3 per m <sup>2</sup>	7 – 14 days		-
Light curative	3 – 6 per m <sup>2</sup>	7 – 14 days	3 x	-
Heavy curative	6 – 9 per m <sup>2</sup>	7 days	3 x	Infected areas