



PLANTPRODUCTS®

Summer Shipping of Beneficial Insects

What to Expect When Your Order Arrives.

Summer is peak season for beneficial insects. As temperatures rise and pest populations increase, growers rely on biological control programs to deliver fast, reliable results.

Because beneficial insects are living organisms, warmer weather can lead to increased activity during transit and upon arrival. As a result, we often receive questions such as:

- Why are there mites on the outside of the sachet box?
- The ice pack is melted. Is the product still okay?
- Are active mites outside the packaging a bad sign?

In many cases, these observations are simply signs of a healthy, living product and are not cause for concern.

Increased Mite Activity During Warm Weather

During the summer months, it is normal to notice increased activity from both predatory and prey mites. You may even see some mites emerge onto the outside of sachets or shipping boxes. This is expected and is not a sign of reduced product quality.

Predatory mites are ectotherms, meaning their activity is influenced by the surrounding temperature. In cooler conditions, they tend to move slowly and conserve energy. As temperatures rise, they become more active and mobile.

When opening a shipment during warmer weather, you may notice mites:

- Moving quickly across sachets or packaging.
- Gathering near ventilation holes or sachet openings.
- Appearing on the outside of boxes.
- Dispersing throughout the box more rapidly than expected.

These are all normal signs of healthy, active, and viable predatory mites. Increased movement during warm conditions is a positive indicator that the mites are alive and ready to perform once released into the crop.

Melted Ice Packs: What to Expect During Summer Shipping

The ice packs included in summer shipments are not intended to keep products frozen or refrigerator-cold throughout transit. Instead they act as a thermal buffer, absorbing heat and helping maintain a more stable temperature inside the package during shipping.

Because they are designed to absorb heat, ice packs will often thaw before the shipment arrives. A melted ice pack alone is not an indication of product quality. The condition and activity of the biological control agents upon arrival are far more important indicators of shipment integrity.

Beneficial insects, predatory mites, parasitoids, and other biological control agents are often more resilient than you might expect. Their greatest risk is prolonged exposure to extreme temperatures. That's why each shipment is



carefully packed with insulated materials and cooling components designed to moderate temperature fluctuations and help protect product quality throughout transit.

Multiple Layers of Protection for Safe Delivery

In addition to ice packs, many summer shipments include insulated packaging designed to help protect biological products from temperature fluctuations during transit.

While ice packs help absorb heat, the insulation works to slow the transfer of external temperatures into the package. Together, these components create a more stable environment that helps safeguard product quality throughout the shipping process.

Even after an ice pack has thawed, the insulated packaging continues to provide protection by reducing temperature swings and helping maintain suitable conditions until the shipment reaches its destination.

Additional Tips

Track Your Shipment

- Whenever possible, plan to receive your shipment promptly upon arrival. Minimizing time spent in hot environments, such as delivery vehicles, greenhouse entrances, or on loading docks, helps maintain product quality.
- If you won't be available to receive the delivery, consider shipping to a Purolator or UPS hold-for-pickup location so it can be collected as soon as possible.

Inspect Shipment Upon Arrival

- If anything appears unusual or you have questions about the condition of the product, contact your Plant Products representative or our Customer Service team. We're always happy to help.

Release Beneficials as Soon as Possible

- Beneficial insects are living organisms and perform best when released promptly after arrival.
- Whenever feasible, same-day application is recommended to maximize performance and effectiveness.

Follow Proper Storage Guidelines

- If immediate release is not possible, store products according to the recommendations provided for the specific biological control agent.
- To help preserve quality and viability, products should generally be kept in a cool, shaded area away from direct sunlight and temperature extremes, and used as soon as possible after receipt.



Our Commitment to Product Quality

The packaging used for summer shipments is not guesswork. Plant Products and Biobest continually evaluate packaging methods, insulation materials, and cooling strategies to help ensure biological products arrive in optimal condition throughout the growing season.

From our facility to your crop, every shipment is thoughtfully prepared to protect the living organisms inside and support optimal performance upon arrival.

For further information, recommendations, or technical assistance, please contact your Plant Products representative.