

# Sphaerophoria Rueppellii



*Sphaerophoria rueppellii* is a hoverfly. Hoverflies are medium-sized insects, with a yellow-black body which makes a hoverfly resemble a wasp. They can be distinguished from wasps by their hovering flight. They do not sting. Mature hoverflies feed on nectar and pollen, while the larvae are gluttonous predators. The larvae feeds on various species of aphids, and devour as many as 200 per cycle. In addition, they can also survive on other prey such as thrips, spidermite and whitefly.

## Life cycle & relative effectiveness

The oval eggs are white/grey in colour and have a 3day life cycle. The green larvae have a life cycle of 8-9 days. The drop shaped pupae are green/brown coloured and have a life cycle of 5-6 days. A female lays 15-20 eggs per day and lives 21 days. Larvae can devour up to 200 aphids before pupating. *Sphaerophoria* is active in temperatures from 12-40°C. Activity may decrease during the autumn due to reduced daylight.

## Package & volume

*Sphaerophoria rueppelli* supplied in a 100 ml. Bottle containing 100 pupae.

Release the pupae immediately on receipt. (on delivery, some mature adults will fly out immediately.)

## Storage & handling

Store for no longer than 24 hours in a cool dark place, temperature 8-10°C.

Hoverflies are extremely sensitive to chemical substances. For this reason, do not use any chemical pest control substances for at least six weeks prior to deploying hoverflies.

## Application & dose

*Sphaerophoria rueppellii* can be used successfully in pepper and aubergine crops, and can also be used for other fruit, vegetables, ornamental plants and even for public green spaces. The plants must produce nectar and pollen as daily food for the hoverflies. Release *sphaerophoria rueppellii* preferably from the bottle which should be placed horizontally in a shady dry place or between the support strings.

	Rate	Interval	Frequency	Remark
Preventive	100 per ha.	Weekly	6 x	1 releasepoint per bottle
Light curative	300 – 400 per ha.	Weekly	3 x	1 releasepoint per bottle
Heavy curative	-	-	-	-