

About the MacTrix sheets

The density of the parasitised eggs varies on the sheets. Unfortunately we are unable to produce identical sheets.

Before dispatch we sort the sheets into low, medium, high and very high density – rating them respectively 500+, 1000+, 1500+ and 2000+ parasitised eggs per sheet (24 strips per sheet). This allows for a wide margin of error – there are actually many more eggs than this.

To make use of all the sheets we generally send the lower density sheets to the growers with smaller orders and give them more sheets to make up the difference. High-density sheets usually go to the larger orders and we send less sheets. In the later case the strips can be cut again if you wish.

Sometimes a small order will have a high-density sheet and sometimes a large order will include some low-density sheets.

We always supply in excess of your order (a quick look and count with a hand lens will make this obvious) and some weeks when we have excess sheets we distribute them among the orders – why waste them? We cannot store them for more than 5 days.

But when demand is high you may receive closer to the number you have actually ordered.

Trichogramma wasp emergence info

When your Trichogramma leaves our insectory they usually have 3 days to emerge when kept at 25°C. We generally dispatch on Tuesdays – the package arrives on Wednesday – the cards are put out on Thursday and the wasps begin to emerge on Friday morning. The package contains a note on estimated emergence time.

However, temperatures in transit and at your end may vary from 25°C. If its hotter they will come out earlier and if its colder, later.

If the Trichogramma are placed in the field on arrival, it may be several days before the wasps emerge and predators - usually ants - may eat some Trichogramma pupae before the wasps emerge. We therefore suggest you place the cards in the field in the 24 hours leading up to estimated wasp emergence. This will minimise predation.

Alternatively, some strips can be placed in a glass jar on arrival. Place the cards in the field when a few wasps start coming out in the jar.

Stalling wasp emergence

If wasps start emerging earlier than you expect or if the weather is unsuitable for placement in the field, the Trichogramma can be slowed by placing them in a cool place.

Wasp development is minimal below 12°C. Place the MacTrix cards in a fridge that runs between 5 and 14°C or in an Esky with several ice bricks.

Refrigeration should not exceed 4 days, as wasp fitness will decline beyond this time.