

Pantry moth wasps

Trichogramma pretiosum



Adult female (right) and male (left) *Trichogramma pretiosum* wasps (images: Denis Crawford)

Advantages of pantry moth biocontrol

- A great way to reduce pantry moth infestations without resorting to chemicals
- Break the lifecycle of pantry moths by killing them in the egg stage
- Quick and easy to use

How it works

Trichogramma are tiny wasps (less than 0.5 mm long) that parasitise pantry moth eggs. Female wasps lay their own eggs within pantry moth eggs. When the wasp eggs hatch, the wasp larvae eat the developing caterpillars inside the moth eggs. The wasp larvae then pupate inside the moth eggs and emerge as adult wasps.

This process takes 7 - 14 days depending on temperature and a female wasp can parasitise over 50 moth eggs during her lifespan of up to 2 weeks.

Pack size

- **Domestic pack** - 5 paper cups, each containing at least 2,400 wasps (total 12,000 wasps)
- **Sheet of release cards** - 60 release cards, each containing at least 1,000 wasps (total 60,000 wasps)

Storage and handling

- We send Trichogramma as parasitised eggs
- When they arrive, store at room temperature (out of direct sunlight) and wasps will emerge within a week
- Adult wasps cannot be stored for later use - they must be released as soon as they emerge

How many to release

- Adjust release rates depending on the amount of food and level of pantry moth activity
- As a guide, use 1 cup (2,400 wasps) or 2-3 release cards (2,000 - 3,000 wasps) for each square metre of pantry shelf space

When to release

- Release preventatively or at the first sign of pantry moth activity, then follow up with monthly releases until there is no further evidence of pantry moth

How to release

- If you ordered a domestic pack, check daily for adult wasp activity within the paper cups and open lids to release wasps as soon as they are visible
- If you ordered a sheet of release cards, you can separate and distribute them around your pantry immediately - wasps will begin to emerge approximately 24 hours after adult wasp activity is first observed within the indicator vial provided
- If ants are active in your pantry, place Trichogramma release cups/cards inside a cup on a saucer filled with water to prevent ants attacking wasps before they emerge

Supporting strategies

- Ensure dry goods are stored in airtight containers and avoid storing these foods for lengthy periods
- Clean out food storage areas thoroughly, wipe shelves with a damp cloth and vacuum crevices to remove any food residue
- Food storage containers can be frozen for 3-4 days to kill pantry moths

Chemical use

- Many chemical products are highly toxic to Trichogramma wasps - avoid using pesticides in your home



Release cup



Individual release cards from sheet