

BIOLOGICAL CONTROL OF *Iceria purchasi* IN FARS¹

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SUMMARY

The cottony cushion scale (*Iceria purchasi* Mask.) produces 4 generations in a year under climatic conditions of contaminated regions (Khafre, Shiraz).

The life cycle of this insect is variable (70 - 140 days). This insect has been collected from 12 host plants, mostly citrus species and pomegranate.

Our investigations reveal that the lady beetle (*Vedalia cardinalis* Mul.) is a very efficient predator for biological control of this scale, and it is able to produce one generation every 19 - 22 days. If the climatic and feeding conditions for the beetle are not suitable, this will cause the reproduction cycle to become more delayed.

What makes the beetle to be one of the best means of efficient biological control is that it controls the scale at different stages of growth while it is going through different stages of growth itself.

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BIOLOGICAL CONTROL OF PESTS IN IRAN

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The country is a semi-arid one with a hot summer and a cold winter. The climate is continental with a wide range of temperature. The mean temperature in the winter is about 10°C and in the summer it is about 30°C. The mean rainfall is about 200 mm per year. The insects and mites which are injurious to crops are: locusts, grasshoppers, beetles, flies, and mites. The locusts are the most serious pest. They are found in the desert and in the mountains. They feed on the leaves and stems of the crops. They also feed on the fruits of the trees. They are very destructive and can cause a great deal of damage to the crops. The grasshoppers are also a serious pest. They are found in the mountains and in the desert. They feed on the leaves and stems of the crops. They are very destructive and can cause a great deal of damage to the crops. The beetles are also a serious pest. They are found in the mountains and in the desert. They feed on the leaves and stems of the crops. They are very destructive and can cause a great deal of damage to the crops. The flies are also a serious pest. They are found in the mountains and in the desert. They feed on the leaves and stems of the crops. They are very destructive and can cause a great deal of damage to the crops. The mites are also a serious pest. They are found in the mountains and in the desert. They feed on the leaves and stems of the crops. They are very destructive and can cause a great deal of damage to the crops.

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