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BIOLOGICAL CONTROL OF *Iceria purchasi* IN FARS[1]

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SUMMARY

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

The life cycle of this insect is variabe (70 - 140 days). Ths 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 generaton every 19 - 22 days. If the climatic and feeding condi - tions 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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