

Aphid Control in Ornamentals with Versys® and Velifer®

Aphid Pressure in Australia: A Growing Challenge for Ornamentals

Aphids are among the most persistent and damaging pests in Australian ornamental production. With over 70 species introduced, they thrive in mild climates and protected cropping environments, reproducing rapidly and forming dense colonies. Their feeding behavior causes:

- Stunted growth and leaf distortion
- Transmission of plant viruses
- Reduced aesthetic and market value of ornamentals

Peak aphid activity occurs in spring (Sept–Nov) and autumn (Mar–May), with greenhouse populations capable of year-round reproduction.

BASF has growers covered this season with a robust aphid management program featuring Versys® and Velifer® insecticides. Together, they deliver fast knockdown and sustainable control to protect ornamental crops from damaging infestations.

Versys Insecticide: Fast, Targeted Aphid Suppression

Active Ingredient: Afidopyropen 100 g/L (Group 9D – Pyropenes)

Formulation: Dispersion Concentrate (DC)

Use Rate: 100 mL/ha or 10 mL/1000 m² in ≥200 L water

Key Benefits:

- Rapid feeding cessation within 15 minutes, reducing virus transmission
- Controls all life stages: adults, nymphs, and eggs
- Translaminar and acropetal mobility ensures coverage on both leaf surfaces
- Low toxicity to beneficials and pollinators – ideal for IPM
- Residual control up to 21 days; reapply after 14 days in high-pressure situations



Velifer Biological Insecticide: IPM-Friendly Aphid Suppression

Active Ingredient: Beauveria bassiana strain PPRI 5339

Formulation: Oil-based Suspension Concentrate (OD)
Use Rate: 90 mL/100 L for aphids in protected ornamentals

Mode of Action:

- Fungal spores adhere to aphids within 0–6 hours
- Germination and invasion occur within 6–12 hours
- Death typically occurs within 24–48 hours due to immune suppression and dehydration

Key Benefits:

- Broad-spectrum suppression of aphids, thrips, and whiteflies
- Biological flexibility for IPM programs
- No resistance concerns and minimal environmental impact



Application Strategy

Combining Versys and Velifer offers a powerful one-two punch:

- Chemical + Biological control
- Resistance management
- Sustainability and safety for nursery environments

Versys: Apply at first signs of aphid activity. Use max 2 sprays before rotating. Ensure full leaf coverage for optimal efficacy.

Velifer: Apply 2–4 times at 7-day intervals for effective suppression. Avoid mixing with non-ionic surfactants.

Versys and Velifer not only deliver powerful aphid control but also provide management of other key pests. Versys is effective against whiteflies and mealybugs in ornamental crops, while Velifer offers broad-spectrum biological suppression of thrips, whiteflies, and mites, making it a versatile partner in integrated pest management programs.

This integrated approach not only improves pest management outcomes but also supports sustainable production, helping ornamental growers protect crop quality and meet market demands with confidence.

Find out more about [Versys](#) and [Velifer Insecticide](#) in our [STEWARDSHIP HUB](#) and speak to your local distributors to source the solutions or contact our [BASF Turf solutions team directly here](#) to learn about our pipeline of innovation.

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We create chemistry