

# Hypoaspis for poultry mites



## Chicken mites and Hypoaspis

Poultry mites (chicken mites) are parasites of chickens that breed up rapidly under warm, humid conditions. They cause the birds great distress and are also able to bite humans.

Hypoaspis are robust predatory mites that feed on a wide range of soft-bodied organisms. Reports from users in Australia and elsewhere indicate that Hypoaspis can be very useful in the battle against poultry mites.

## When to release

Release hypoaspis mites early in the season at the first hint of chicken mite activity. If chicken mites have been present in the past then release proactively in early-mid Spring. We suggest monthly releases until there are no signs of chicken mite activity.

## Recommended release rates

Release 1 tub of Hypoaspis mites per 5-10 birds depending on the severity of infestation. Make follow up releases at monthly intervals until there is no evidence of pest mite activity.

Season	Suggested release rate
Spring & Autumn	1 tub per 10-20 birds
Summer	1 tub per 5-10 birds

## How to release

Hypoaspis mites are packed in cardboard tubs containing a mixture of sawdust, cocoa peat and vermiculite. They should be released as soon as possible after delivery. If necessary, tubs can be stored for several days at 10-18°C.

Ensure that the content of the tubs is well mixed immediately prior to release. You may apply the Hypoaspis mite mix directly onto the floor of the chicken pen and into crevices. Concentrate material in and around nesting boxes. Hypoaspis mites will not cause harm to chickens or humans.

## Hygiene

Keep your chicken coop clean and change bedding material regularly (especially in nesting boxes). Try to ensure the humidity is managed by reducing the opportunity for rain to enter.

## Chemical use

Some chemical products are highly toxic to Hypoaspis mites. **We strongly suggest that you avoid pesticides in your chicken coop.**

## A predatory mite to help with the management of poultry mites (chicken mites)

### Advantages

- A robust predatory mite
- Quick and easy to use
- A far better option than chemicals

### Pack size

1 litre tube containing 20,000 living stages (eggs and mites)

### Environmental conditions

Hypoaspis do well in warm, humid conditions.

They should establish in and amongst hay, straw and other media that may be used in chicken coops.

Hypoaspis are active at temperatures as low as 10 °C, however they perform best at 20-30 °C.

