

Damselfly & Dragonfly Nymphs

A CAROLINA™ CareSheet

Immediate care and handling

Damselfly and dragonfly nymphs are cannibalistic, so keep them separate in aquaria or small jars of springwater. Include some aquatic plants or sticks that extend above the water line, as the nymphs will need to crawl out of the water to emerge as adults. The nymphs keep satisfactorily at 10 to 31° C (51 to 87° F). Do not place them in direct sunlight.

They eat *Daphnia* or larvae of various *Diptera* (mosquito, housefly).

Adults are more difficult to maintain in captivity, but we do not recommend releasing them if they are not native to your area. You can preserve damselflies and dragonflies in 70% alcohol.

FAQ's

How will I know when my dragonflies/damselflies are about to emerge as adults?

The nymph will crawl out of the water. Nymphs also eat less just before emergence.

How long will it take the nymphs to become flying adults?

It takes damselfly nymphs several months to a year. Dragonfly nymphs may take from 1 year up to 5 years, depending on food supply and temperature. The age of your nymphs at time of shipping is unknown.

What should I feed them?

Daphnia, insect larvae (e.g., mosquito and housefly), tadpoles, and small fish.

Will the adults bite or sting?

No. Although the adults have mouthparts, they do not bite humans unless handled roughly. Their bite is harmless and is not strong enough to break the skin. Adults do not have stingers.

Can the nymphs control mosquitoes in an outdoor pond?

Both nymphs and adults are predators of mosquitoes and are recognized for their ability to control the mosquito population. However, there are several things to consider first. We recommend raising them specifically for this purpose, which requires knowing which species are native to your area. Second, adult dragonflies and damselflies are active during the day, while adult mosquitoes are active primarily in the evening and at night.

Can I put the nymphs in a tank with fish?

No. Larger damsel- and dragonfly nymphs are predators of small fish and the prey of larger fish.

Can I put them in a tank with a filter?

You can use a filter, but it is not required. An airstone will also circulate the water.

Problems? We hope not, but if so contact us. We want you to have a good experience.

Orders and replacements: 1-800-334-5551 then select Customer Service

Technical Support and Questions: caresheets@carolina.com



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