



Greenhouse TPM/IPM Bi-Weekly Report
University of Maryland Cooperative Extension
Central Maryland Research and Education Center

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Whitefly

Monitor poinsettia and other greenhouse crops closely for the different stages of whitefly. Avoid letting weeds grow under the benches which serve as epicenters for whitefly populations. If you treated poinsettias with imidacloprid (Marathon) or dinotefuran (Safari) as soil drenches after pinching then you should have pretty good control of whitefly on the foliage that expanded after the application. Be sure to continue closely monitoring lower leaves



which would have expanded before the systemic was applied. Check pesticides labels to see whether they note “do not apply when bracts are in color”. In past years we have observed that Abamectin (Avid), pyridaben (Sanmite), chlorfenapyr (Pylon), acetamiprid (TriStar) and dinotefuran (Safari) applied as foliar sprays in bract stage without causing any noticeable damage on poinsettia varieties such as ‘Freedom’, ‘Prestige’ and ‘Monet’. When applying pesticides late in the season to poinsettias, it is best to try out a spray on a few plants before treating the whole crop. Other materials that work well include Azatin, Aria, Endeavor, Enstar, Flagship, Judo, Marathon, Pedestal, and Talus.

Photos shows silverleaf whitefly on underside of poinsettia leaf

Monitoring Aphids in the Fall

Throughout most of the year, aphids can reproduce parthenogenically (females do not mate and give live birth to more females). Aphids can give birth to females ready to give birth to more aphids which means aphid populations can build up very quickly. Winged forms can be produced when populations are high to help the aphids disperse to new plants or crops. In the fall, males are produced and they mate with the females. At this time, females lay eggs which overwinter. Aphids in the egg stage are not susceptible to insecticides.



Monitoring: Look for aphids feeding on growing tips, along stems and in flower heads. In heavy infestations, there will be many white cast skins and sooty mold on the plants. Aphids secrete honeydew as a waste product which is a food source for the sooty mold fungus.

Control: Insecticides for aphid control include neem products and horticultural oils. Most of the systemic insecticides labeled for ornamental crops give good control of aphids.

Biological Control: Predators and parasitoids can be ordered from biological control suppliers and released in the greenhouse to help control aphids before populations build to high numbers. The lady bird beetle, *Hippodamia convergens*, lacewings, parasitic wasps such as *Aphidius colemani* and the predatory midge, *Aphidoletes aphidomyza*, are readily available.



Green peach aphids



Lady bird beetle (*Hippodamia convergens*)



***Aphidoletes* larvae feeding on goldenglow aphids**



***Aphidius* wasp with aphids**



Lacewing larva



Lacewing adult

UPCOMING PROGRAMS:

December 10, 2009

Chesapeake Green Energy Conference
Location: Brookside Gardens, Wheaton, MD
Contact: Suzanne Klick, 301-596-9413

December 18, 2009

Pest Management Recertification Conference
Location: Montgomery College, Germantown, MD
Contact: Suzanne Klick, 301-596-9413

February 3 and 4, 2010

2010 Chesapeake Green Horticulture Symposium
Location: Maritime Institute, Linthicum, MD
Contact: MNLA, 410-823-8684

February 16 – 19, 2010

Cut Flower Short Course
Location: BARC Facility, Beltsville, MD
Contact: Suzanne Klick, 301-596-9413

March 4, 2010

Greenhouse Conference
Location: Chesapeake Community College, Easton, MD
Contact: Shannon Dill, 410-822-1244