



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

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Whitefly in Soybean – Problems for poinsettias later?

From Galen Dively (Retired Entomologist, Field crops)

Betsy Gallagher reported a possible whitefly problem in soybean. Check this article by Marlin Rice at Iowa State.

<http://www.ipm.iastate.edu/ipm/icm/2007/8-6/whiteflies.html>.

Whiteflies can be found in virtually every soybean field but I have never seen infestations that I considered yield reducing to soybeans in our area, although they can get quite numerous and become obvious to a grower. Bandedwinged whitefly, *Trialeurodes abutiloneus*,



is the most common whitefly on soybeans. When it is high on soybean and the crop dries down in fall the whitefly will migrate into greenhouses and show up on poinsettia plants. We have also found them on petunia, geranium and hibiscus in the previous years but usually in the spring. If they migrate into your greenhouse in September and October they are relatively easy to kill with most labeled materials for whitefly control.

Pansy Problems

Take a look at these pansy plants. We visited a grower this week to look at plants that had interveinal discoloration of the foliage. We had run a pH test for them 2 weeks ago and the pH was 6.7. The mix is a soil-less substrate and we suggested lowering the pH level. We visited the operation on Monday and the pH was still high, pH 6.8. The mix was probably overcharged with a slow release limestone to get the pH up that high. The root system was white and looked healthy but the plants are off color. He is using a pansy fertilizer. We checked his water alkalinity using a Hach test kit and it was 80 ppm alkalinity.



This alkalinity should not keep his pH level up. We suggested using iron sulfate to lower the pH. Another way to lower pH is to do a one-time application of an acidifying fertilizer such as 21-7-7. The EC of the soil was .47 millimohs so it may just be a low fertility problem combined with the pH being too high. It is important to check your pH because at that pH, plants are very susceptible to *Thielaviopsis*. The best control, especially long term, is to lower pH below to 6.2. Another option is to use a thiophanate methyl, fludioxonil, or triflumizole fungicide.

Green Stink Bugs

We are seeing green stink bug nymphs on hibiscus plants here at the research center.

Control: In the landscape, birds, toads, spiders and other insect-eating animals prey on green stink bugs. Insecticides can be used if populations are causing heavy damage. Usually, they're not in high enough numbers on ornamental plants to warrant control.



Green stink bug nymph



Green stink bug adult

FYI - August 21, 2007: Press Release from Northeast SARE at 802/656-0471, nesare @uvm.edu

Grants offered for projects in agricultural sustainability

The Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program offers three different competitive grant programs, all with application deadlines in the late fall and early winter. These grants are capped at \$10,000 and should offer innovative approaches to sustainable agriculture.

Farmer grants are for commercial farmers who would like to explore a new practice or idea, often by conducting an experiment, trial, or on-farm demonstration. Projects can explore a wide range of topics such as pest management, soil health, adding value, marketing, or new production techniques, and funds can be used to pay for the farmer's time and for materials specific to the project. The application deadline is December 18.

Partnership Grants are for Cooperative Extension, NRCS, and other agricultural professionals who work directly with farmers. Partnership Grants support on-farm research and demonstration projects in sustainable agriculture, and funds can be used to pay for personnel, materials, sampling, supplies, testing, and to compensate cooperating farmers for their time. The application deadline is December 4.

Sustainable Community grants are for projects that connect farming and rural economic development. Projects can address issues like finance, marketing, land and water use, enterprise development, adding value to farm products, or farm labor. Applicants must be affiliated with an organization such as a community nonprofit, Cooperative Extension, local government, an educational institution, a planning board, a farming cooperative, or an incorporated citizens' group. This grant is offered in partnership with the Northeast Center for Rural Development, and the application deadline is November 27.

Applications are posted on the Northeast SARE web site at www.uvm.edu/~nesare, or call 802/656-0471 to request a printed copy. The Northeast SARE region is made up of Connecticut, Delaware, Massachusetts, Maryland, Maine, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, West Virginia, and Washington, D.C.

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