



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

From: Stanton Gill and Ethel Dutky, University of Maryland Cooperative Extension
Ginny Rosenkranz, Extension Educator, Chuck Schuster, Extension Educator, Suzanne Klick
and Shannon Wadkins, Technicians, University of Maryland Cooperative Extension
Amanda Laudwein, Joanne Lutz, John Speaker, and Marie Rojas (Independent IPM Scouts)

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<p>High Tunnel Conference and Tour May 31, 2007 Montgomery County Extension Office, Derwood Farmhouse Flowers and Plants, Brookeville For more information: 301-596-9413</p>	<p>Chesapeake Green Interiorscape Conference May 18, 2007 Brookside Gardens, Wheaton, Maryland For more information: 410-823-8684</p>
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Sweet Potato Vine

We are seeing a sugary secretion occur on 'Blackie' sweet potato vine this week. This crystal-like formation on the foliage is not causing damage. The raised bumps that form along the veins are caused by oedema. Oedema is a common cultural problem that develops under conditions of reduced transpiration such as low light or high humidity.



Scouting Reports

John Speaker, Speaker's Gardens, is reporting spider mites on dracaena spikes and vinca vine. He is also seeing aphids on vinca vine and a wide variety of bedding plants and overwintered perennials.

Whiteflies

We visited a greenhouse this week that is having persistent problems with whitefly on their hibiscus plants. Be sure to inspect shipments coming out of the south, especially from Florida, for whiteflies.

This grower is concerned that they could have the Q-biotype at their operation. Are you also experiencing ongoing problems with whiteflies? Do your pesticide applications seem to be ineffective? If so, you might want to consider having genetic testing performed.



A simple visual inspection will not be sufficient to determine if you have the resistant Q-biotype. We currently do not have a testing lab at the University of Maryland. Adult whiteflies are sent to an outside lab for testing. You can submit samples to labs in California and Arizona. There are a

number of specifics concerning how one collects a sample and preserves it for evaluation. For these specifics, scheduling and pricing information you **must** contact the individual laboratories.

Frank J. Byrne, Ph. D.

Assistant Researcher
Dept of Entomology
University of California, Riverside
3401 Watkins Drive
Riverside, CA 92521
Tel.: (951) 827-7078
Email: frank.byrne@ucr.edu

Judith K. Brown, Ph. D.

Plant Sciences Department
The University of Arizona
Tel.: (520) 621-1230
Tucson, AZ 85721 U.S.A.
Email: jbrown@ag.arizona.edu

Cindy McKenzie, Ph.D.

Research Entomologist
USDA, ARS, US Horticultural Research
Laboratory
2001 South Rock Road
Fort Pierce, FL 34945
Email: cmckenzie@ushrl.ars.usda.gov

Botrytis

We are starting to see some *Botrytis* show up on some early spring crops such as pansy and primrose. Just a few reminders...

Botrytis can be a problem year round but is especially common in periods of cool, cloudy weather. You can try several cultural practices for control. Keep your plants on the dry side and water as early in the day as possible. Remove dead blooms and other infected plant material from production areas. Increase air circulation with horizontal airflow fans and through proper spacing. Vent out warm, humid air in the morning and let in cool, dry air from outside. The heating of the air will lower the humidity level in the greenhouse.



Final Easter Lily Update

Source: 2006 Easter Lily Guidelines from William B. Miller, Cornell University Flower Bulb Research Program

April 3: This is a major shipping time for many growers. Buds are 4 to 5 inches long. Plants should be 20.5 inches tall. Watch for Botrytis.

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