



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

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High Tunnel Conference and Tour
May 31, 2007
Montgomery County Extension Office, Derwood
Farmhouse Flowers and Plants, Brookeville
For more information:
301-596-9413

Scouting Reports

We are continuing to see two-spotted spider mites on mandevilla. These plants also had sessile stage whiteflies on the undersides of the foliage.

Thrips are still being found on gerbera daisies. The greenhouse we visited this week was growing a mix, and only had adult thrips in the yellow blooms. Just a few of the flowers were open, with the rest coming on in the next week. Now would be the ideal time for them to spray, before the thrips begin to spread throughout the entire crop.



Adult two-spotted spider mite with eggs



Sessile stage whiteflies on mandevilla

Angelonia

John Speaker of Speaker's Gardens sent a sample of Angelonia to Agdia for virus testing. It came back positive for Angelonia break virus. This virus is spread by mechanical transmission, not by insects or mites. It has also been reported on the phlox Intensia series and on verbena.

Iris Borer

John Speaker called in to report iris borer activity in iris corms in the Anne Arundel area. The literature on this pest states that the moths lay eggs on the foliage sometime in October. However, members of the Iris Society have told us that they still see iris borer damage even after they have cleaned out the old foliage in the winter. It appears that some pupate in fall with adult emergence and lay eggs in the fall and some remain in the soil as pupae, emerging in early spring to lay their eggs on newly emerged iris leaf fans. The larvae cut into the leaf when the fans are 4-6" high. At this stage, you will see a wet, brownish area at the entry site. This is the ideal time to spray, before they tunnel down into the corm. Damaged corms will eventually become hollow and rotten. When you begin to see plants collapsing, you should take the corm out and destroy it. Next year, time your applications around when the fans come up. Beneficial nematodes are a control option if they are applied early enough in the season. We have had success using *Steinernema carpocapsae*.

Dianthus

Will Healy sent us these photos of dianthus seedlings from the Netherlands showing witches cap growth on leaves, and was wondering if it might be caused by an insect. Dan Gilrein, Cornell University Cooperative Extension, and Dr. Cal Welbourn with the Florida Department of Agriculture looked at the pictures at the Invasive Arthropod Workshop in Clemson earlier this week. They both agreed that this was not caused by an insect or disease. It is an enation which is an outgrowth most likely caused by environmental factors. We had scouts bring in dianthus plants a couple years ago with similar symptoms. It did look like it could be damage from an eriophyid mite, so we took samples to Ron Ochoa at USDA to check for eriophyid mites. No mites were found.



Enation on dianthus seedlings- photos provided by Will Healy, Ball International