FloriBytes - Digital newsletter for the floriculture industry

FloriBytes is prepared by members of the Floriculture Industry Roundtable of Ohio which is financially supported by OFA and The Gus Poesh Fund.

Year I. Issue 4. *October 2006*

TOPICS IN THIS ISSUE:

From Dr. Claudio Pasian (pasian.1@osu.edu) Department of Horticulture and Crop Science

Poinsettias – The final stretch

Some poinsettia cultivars are showing color. This year, whiteflies have not been a big problem. Instead, we have seen some botrytis because the weather conditions have been right: cool, humid and overcast. It is not time to relax yet though…

Growers should inspect plants above the ground and also check the roots. At this time of the year, with cool, overcast weather, the demand on roots due to evapo-transpiration is low and plants can look good even with a partially shut-down root system due to Phytium. Customers tend to take these plants home to a dry, warm environment where the plants collapse because their roots cannot keep up with the transpiration demands of the typical home. We all need those customers to come back, that's why I reiterate: **Check those roots!**

While it may be very tempting to save money by reducing temperatures, maintain them at a minimum of 75 F day / 64 F night for most cultivars. This is important for bract formation. After bract formation, avoid dropping temperatures below 58 F.

If you have shade curtains and you are facing sunny, bright days, deploy the curtains to reduce light levels to 2000 foot candles after bracts have matured. This will prevent color fading. Finally, do not forget to reduce fertilization about 2 to 3 weeks before the crop is fully mature.

INSECT MANAGEMENT

From Dr. Luis Cañas (canas.4@osu.edu). Department of Entomology

Now that I have my poinsettias in color, what can I use to control whiteflies?

Unfortunately when poinsettias turn color, the number of available compounds for whitefly control goes down. Here I am including a list of products that are safe, for the most part, and also a list of compounds that should not be used. Just remember that no single product has been tested against all poinsettia varieties. Therefore, if you have not used a compound before, the rule of thumb is to apply the compound on a small number of plants and wait for about three days to a week and double check that no phytotoxicity or residue is found on the leaves.

Also, during this time of the season we are beginning to see some whitefly populations. Be sure to check the leaves on the bottom as sometimes these leaves might be overlooked when checking the plants.

Compounds that might be used when poinsettias are in color:

1- Judo (spiromesifen)
2- Tristar (acetamiprid), or Flagship (thiamethoxam) both are neonicotinoids.
3- Talstar (bifenthrin)
4- Azatin

Do not use the following products:

- M-Pede (potassium salts of fatty acids)
- BotaniGard (*Beauveria bassiana*)
- Orthene (acephate)
- Pyrethrum TR (pyrethrins + Piperonyl Butoxide)
- Enstar II (S-Kinoprene)
- Precision (fenoxycarb)
- Distance (pyriproxyfen)
- Endeavor (pymetrozine)
- Pedestal (novaluron)
- Adept (diflubenzuron)

What is the IR4 project and how it benefits growers?

The IR-4 Project is a cooperative program funded by USDA and the State Agriculture Experiment Stations. IR-4's mission is to include registration support for conventional crop protection chemicals, as well as biopesticides on specialty food crops and ornamental horticulture crops.

Because of the efforts of this project, we have been able to provide data for companies to expand the use of their products so they can become available in the ornamental market. For instance, from the research we conducted this year we identified two possible compounds that might become available for thrips control: Pylon (chlorfenapyr) and Overture (pyridalyl). I will keep you informed when they become available (note: Pylon is available as a miticide but the label does not include thrips yet).

However, the project relies on a survey to decide which projects to fund. Here I am including a table that lists the priorities established for 2007. As you can see the main problem is the lack of response from regions such as ours, the North Central region. Thus, I will encourage you to participate in next year's survey. I will send the survey to our extension educators for distribution in April or May 2007.

Table 1. National and regional rankings of similar insects and mites grouped together

		Region			
Insect / Mite Group	**National**	**North Central**	**Northeast**	**Southern**	**Western**
Scale & Mealybugs	158	11	16	123	8
Thrips	155	9	7	136	3
Mites & Spider Mites	153	18	26	92	17
Whiteflies	133	1	6	121	5
Aphid	63	2	7	51	3
Borers & Beetles	62	9	21	28	4
White Grubs & Weevils	57	6	37	11	3
Lepidopterans	51		21	24	6
Other	50	3	20	21	6
Fungus Gnats	34		9	20	5
Leafminers	21		1	19	1
Snails & Slugs	16		3	7	6
Nematodes	11	5		6	
Ants	10			8	2
Turf Insects	7			6	1
Plant Bugs	2	2			

More information can be found at:
http://ir4.rutgers.edu/

From David Dyke (ddyke@ag.osu.edu). OSU Extension Hamilton County

NOVEMBER 1, Cincinnati Flower Grower Association meeting to Include PESTICIDE REGULATORY ISSUES UPDATE.

The November 1 meeting of the CFGA will be held at **Diefenbacher Greenhouses**, 11443 Colerain Ave, Cincinnati 45252.

Agenda:

* 3:00 - 4:00pm **Joanne Kick-Raack, Pesticide Coordinator, OSU Extension,** will speak on pesticide issues of concern to growers, including highlights of issues from grower inspections by the ODA and proposed federal regulatory changes for Worker Protection Standards and the potential impacts of those changes. **One hour of core pesticide recertification credit (private and commercial)** has been applied for**.** All commercial growers are invited to attend. No one should miss this!

* 4:00 - 5:00pm Tour of facilities *5:00 - 6:00pm Business meeting *6:00 - 7:00pm Dinner

* 7:00 - 8:00pm **Bob Froelich, Syngenta Crop Protection**, will give a talk on greenhouse pesticide use. Bob's presentations are always very, very good. I hope everyone will catch his talk and the rest of the program.
Please make your **dinner reservations** by calling (513) 741-8455 no later than Monday, October 30.

From Charles Behnke (benhke.1@osu.edu)

Greater Cleveland Flower Growers Meeting

1:00 – 6:00 PM Tuesday November 14. RSVP by Nov 9 to Cthomas462@aol.com. Dinner $10. Pesticide Credit $5.

1:00 PM - Tours of Green Circle Growers, 15650 St.Rt.511, Oberlin and Meeting

2:00 PM - Roundtable Discusussion,

3:30 PM - Sprayer Application Technology lecture for Credit

4:30 PM - Dinner and Socialize 6pm Sprayer Technology check with Black light visualization.

Contact Cathee Thomas 440-487-3970