

Communication, Education, and Outreach
August 22, 2008 Update
Scirtothrips dorsalis

- I. The development of the following extension education products were partially funded by a National Extension IPM grant (2007-08) by Hodges, Osborne, and Ludwig. Note: project summary was circulated to task force/technical working group members during the proposal submission process (July 2007).
- a. Thrips Identification Deck-a pictorial, field-based identification guide for thrips and thrips damage. This will be available in printed form, and some copies will be distributed at no-cost with grant funding. A prototype was used for training purposes at the 2007 Landscape Thrips Ornamental workshop in Apopka, Florida. Anticipated date for content review is September/October 2008. All reviewers or other individuals providing feedback will be acknowledged in the final product. The design for the Thrips Identification Deck will be similar to that of the Mealybugs of the Southeastern U.S. Deck authored by Hodges, Hodges, Buss, and Osborne (currently in printing process, August 2008). The North Central IPM Center will be handling the design of the identification deck. Content questions or suggestions can be directed to Amanda Hodges.
 - b. Hodges, Osborne, and Ludwig are working towards development of an interactive, online chilli thrips module. Technology tools in use for this module have been developed by a University of Florida specialist (Beck), with some funding support from the SPDN as well as other grants. Hodges, Osborne, Ludwig, and Beck initially met biweekly to discuss the online learning tools as well as develop/plan content for the module. Subsequent meetings have occurred via e-mail and some conference calls. Hodges, Beck, and Ludwig also met in Gainesville, Florida on August 20, 2008 to discuss progress regarding the online module. Hodges, Osborne, and Ludwig plan to potentially engage additional authors and/or reviewers as the development progresses. The initial prototype of the module will be available in September. Additional, enhanced learning tools will be incorporated into the module during the fall of 2008. Ludwig will present on the chilli thrips module during a national 'How to Conduct First Detector Training Webinar'-scheduled October 14 and 16, 2008.