

**Chilli Thrips
Technical Working Group
Conference Call
September 29, 2008 (2:00 – 3:00 pm; ET)**

Participants: Scott Ludwig (Tri-Chair, TWG)
Cindy McKenzie (USDA-ARS)
David Haviland (CA-Entomology & Pest Management Farm Advisor)
Bob Shatters (USDA-ARS)
Amanda Hodges (FL – SPDN Assistant Director)
Stuart Reitz (USDA- ARS)
Jack Reed (MS – Research Professor)
Joe Chamberlin (Valent USA Corporation)
Diane Schuble (APHIS –PPQ; Chilli Thrips Task Force Coordinator)

Important Discussions:

Scott L led this call and began by asking Diane S to fill the group in on the call with Washington and Oregon regulatory officials that took place on September 15, 2008. Scott explained that an empty truck was stopped at a California Border Station this past July. It had originated in central Florida and had delivered nursery stock to locations in Washington and/or Oregon. Diane reported that Scott L, Lance O, & Matt C had explained the biology of C.T. to the participants. Then they had summarized the nature & progress of the subgroups. Lin S had reported the workings of the Industry Group & summarized the last call she led with members of Texas industry. Then Eduardo V had summarized the role of the Inter-Agency Group. Diane reported that 8 specimens were collected and identified by CDFA Senior Insect Biosystematist Dr Gillian Watson. Florida authorities are attempting to trace the truck & determine the originating nursery. Diane concluded by informing the group that the minutes of that call were emailed to the group that morning, if further reference was desired.

Updates from the Subgroups

Diagnostics- Nothing to report.

Scott L mentioned that with the effects of the hurricane, we can expect to see some new county finds of C.T. in Texas.

Genetics- Bob S reported that with the genetic match to Taiwan, the group is now working to develop other nuclear markers. Bob said they will be looking to see if there are different biotypes involved, & he referred to Richard Stouthamer's work. Cindy M confirmed that she received Japan samples last week.

Chemical management- Scott L. reported that he & Matt C wrapped up some of their work on soft products. Insecticidal soaps knock down populations but do not eliminate them. Without constant application, populations resurge. Scott will put together the publications.

Scott also reported that a project on chemical management of WFT will include a section on C.T. This spreadsheet of chemicals will be ready in a month or two. The format will be similar to one done for the Whitefly project. It is expected to list many authors.

Biological Control- Nothing to Report

Communication/education/outreach- Amanda H reported considerable progress with the online teaching module. It will be available soon. On October 14 and 16 there will be training sessions. A power point presentation will be made available for others in outreach to use, as well. Scott said that he recently attended an Ornamentals meeting & noted that the diagnostic lab group had many questions, so this new outreach will be very helpful. Amanda said that she will be attending a meeting of the SDPN soon & will informally raise the topic of C.T.

Practical Biology & Ecology- Cindy M reported that plans are going forward for thermo-limitation testing and experiment cages are being constructed for next week.

Disease Transmission- Scott said that Lance O is still working on getting a WFT colony for his study.

Next Call: Tentatively - Thursday, October 30, 2008 (2 – 3 pm; ET)