

PINK HIBISCUS MEALYBUG QUARTERLY REPORT
Period 1/01/07 – 3/31/07

Since January 1, 2007 the PHM program has produced 190,100 *Anagyrus kamali* 440,800 *Gyranusoidea indica* parasites and 9,341 *Cryptolaemus montrouzieri*. These production numbers have exceeded the projects weekly production goals. The average *Gyranusoidea indica* production per week is 33,907 and the average *Anagyrus kamali* production per week is 14,623.

On March 8, 2007 a Japanese pumpkin crop was planted at a new location in Hastings, FL. and is the only crop planted this quarter but an additional crop is planned in Citra for the beginning of April. There was another crop harvested in Ft. Pierce on January 17th and on February 22nd due to a late freeze forcing an early harvest. There were 659 pumpkins harvest from Ft. Pierce weighing 1509lbs.

On February 2, the phytophagous Strawberry Mite (*Tetranychus turkastani*) was detected in several of the PHM rearing cabinets. Even though not a threat to the PHM or parasite colony, the mites do feed on the host pumpkins. Measures were taken to eliminate the mites by examination and removal of infested pumpkins and strict sanitation of the rearing areas. No additional mites have been found. In order to prevent further mite problems, all pumpkins entering the rearing process are now being fumigated.

Parasite and predator releases are being tracked through the use of the GIS Arc MAP program. This program tracks newly discovered PHM sites as well as parasite and predator release sites using GPS coordinates and plots them on a map. This allows for a more accurate picture of where parasites and predators need to be shipped. STR is no longer being used and has been replaced by GPS. At this point parasites have been shipped to 25 out of 38 counties that have identified positive for the Pink Hibiscus Mealybug. Two new counties (Marion and Glades) have been detected with PHM raising the county total to 38. The following is a list of counties that parasites and predators are being shipped to:

County List		
Brevard	Lee	Pasco
Broward	Manatee	Pinellas
Charlotte	Martin	Polk
Collier	Miami-Dade	Sarasota
De Soto	Monroe	Seminole
Flagler	Okeechobee	St. Lucie
Highlands	Orange	Volusia
Hillsborough	Osceola	
Indian River	Palm Beach	

The spread of Pink Hibiscus Mealybug is currently under control. There are new locations that continue to pop up, however these new finds are decreasing.

Plans for next quarter include the finalization of a draft “Standard Operating Procedure” for mass rearing the parasites and predator including a section on Quality Assurance; confirming plans for a greenhouse crop at a DPI site in Dundee during winter months to provide a continuous source of pumpkins; and continued evaluation of refinements in the rearing process.

Submitted by:
Lee Trester
Biological Scientist III
P.O. Box 147100
Division of Plant Industry
Gainesville, FL 32614-7100
(352) 372-3505 x 449
trestel@doacs.state.fl.us

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