

Chilli Thrips
Inter-Agency Working Group
Conference Call #3
January 23, 2008 (1 – 2 pm, ET)

Participants: Ken Glenn (APHIS-PPQ State Plant Health Director-SC)
Barry Smith (GA-State Plant Regulatory Official)
Richard Clark (FL-State Plant Regulatory Official)
Barry Smith (GA-State Plant Regulatory Official)
Tad Hardy (LA-State Plant Regulatory Official)
Shashank Nilakhe (TX-State Plant Regulatory Official)
Mike Wallace (AZ-State Plant Regulatory Official)
Jerry Levitt (APHIS-PPQ State Plant Health Director-AZ)
Kevin Hoffman (CA-State Plant Regulatory Official)
Gray Haun (TN-State Plant Regulatory Official; National Plant Board)
Don Givens (PPQ-WR; Regional Program Manager)
Buzz Conant (PPQ-ER; Program Coordinator)
Lin Schmale (Chair; Industry Working group)
Lance Osborne (Co-Chair; Technical Working Group)
Matt Royer (APHIS-PPQ; Associate Director EDP)
Bill Grefenstette (APHIS-PPQ Chilli Thrips Task Force Coordinator)

Important Discussions:

- We reviewed what was discussed during our previous call on December 6, 2007 (see notes from that call).
- We then moved into our discussion regarding “how we should report ‘new finds’ of *Scirtothrips dorsalis*.

Kevin H. expressed California’s position that the pest should be regulated as an “actionable pest.”

Richard C. explained the actions taken in Florida when responding to a new find. When Chilli Thrips is detected and confirmed in a commercial nursery, the infested area is delimited, the effected plants are treated, the area is reinspected, and then the plants in question are allowed to be shipped.

Shashank N. reported that similar measures are taken in response to new detections in Texas. “Stop Sale” orders are given, and the plant material in question is either treated or destroyed.

After some helpful discussion, the group reached consensus on the following responses to Chilli Thrips detections:

1. **Residential Properties:** new detections will be confirmed by qualified identifiers (the TWG will soon provide contact information); because plant material on residential properties does not pose a significant risk of spread, new detections from residential properties will be reported only at the State level, and advice on effective control measures will be provided to effected homeowners.
 2. **Retail Stores:** new detections will be confirmed by qualified identifiers (the TWG will soon provide contact information); new detections on plant material at retail outlets present risk of infested material moving within a certain radius of the store, and therefore will result in “Stop Sale” orders, with effected plants being treated or destroyed; the TWG will provide information on effective treatment methods; the area will be reinspected following the treatment, and then the plants in question may be shipped; “trace backs” should also be conducted to identify the source of the infestation; detections in retail stores will be reported by State, County, and property address, with the understanding that a “clean” post-treatment inspection concludes the matter.
 3. **Commercial Facilities:** new detections will be confirmed by qualified identifiers (the TWG will soon provide contact information); new detections on plant material at commercial facilities present a significant risk of infested material moving considerable distances in intrastate and interstate commerce, and therefore will result in “Stop Sale” orders, with effected plants being treated or destroyed; the TWG will provide information on effective treatment methods; the area will be reinspected following the treatment, and then the plants in question may be shipped; “trace forwards” and “trace backs” should also be conducted to identify the source of the infestation and any facilities that may have received infested material; detections in commercial facilities will be reported by State, County, and property address; a “clean” post-treatment inspection concludes the matter, although the results of “trace forwards” and “trace backs” may require follow-up action.
- Lance O. commented that the Task Force needs to quickly prepare a useful protocol for inspecting residential, retail, and commercial properties for Chilli Thrips; the TWG will provide a draft soon, for review by the IWG and I-AWG.

Next Steps:

1. Bill G. will distribute notes from this call to the I-AWG; final copies will go to the IWG and TWG.
2. The I-AWG needs an effective Chairperson.
3. Bill G. (or a newly-appointed Chair) will convene the next I-AWG conference call as soon as necessary.