

Chilli Thrips Topics for Discussion

August 2007

Reportable / Actionable

Chilli Thrips is listed by APHIS as a “reportable/actionable” pest. If detected on cargo at U.S. ports of entry, it requires fumigation.

Survey

Chilli Thrips can attack ornamentals, orchard crops, and row crops. It is included in the list of pests for the CAPS survey in 2008 (citrus, eggplant, tomatoes, peppers, and cotton.) Effective detection surveys will be difficult if land-owners fear that detection will result in their property being quarantined.

Action Taken by States

Some States are regulating intrastate movement of plant materials from “positive” facilities. Others are considering interstate regulations.

Over-Treatment

As a result, growers are over-spraying as a precaution to being shut-down; this over-treatment will likely lead to resistance of several thrips varieties to the few materials (spinosad) that are currently effective. **THIS IS NO LONGER THE CASE BY GROWERS IN FLORIDA. HOWEVER, ROSARIANS ARE BEING TOLD TO MAKE AS MANY AS 2 APPLICATIONS A WEEK.**

Diagnostics

At least 3 variants of Chilli Thrips; complicates positive ID and regulatory action.

Regulatory

We need answers to specific, technical questions before we can develop a responsible strategy for dealing with Chilli Thrips.

Chilli Thrips Task Force

Formed by APHIS-PPQ in late 2006, at the request of the National Plant Board, and *patterned after the Whitefly Task Force model*. Includes 3 working groups: Technical Working Group (May 18, 2007); Industry Working Group (June 22, 2007); and the Inter-Agency Working Group (August 8 →).

The Inter-Agency Working Group includes APHIS-PPQ State Plant Health Directors from FL, SC, TX, NM, and AZ. The group also includes a Regional Program Manager from PPQ’s East and West Regions. It should also include appropriate State Plant Regulatory Officials from areas that may be impacted by this pest.

