

**Chilli Thrips
Technical Working Group
Conference Call
January 29, 2009 (2:00 – 3:00 pm; ET)**

Participants: Lance Osborne (Tri-Chair, TWG)
Matt Ciomperlik (Tri-Chair, TWG)
Scott Ludwig (Tri-Chair, TWG)
Joe Funderburk (FL- Extension Specialist)
Cindy McKenzie (USDA-ARS)
Cristi Palmer (NJ – IR-4 Ornamental Horticulture Program Manager)
David Haviland (CA-Entomology & Pest Management Farm Advisor)
Amanda Hodges (FL – SPDN Assistant Director)
Stuart Reitz (USDA- ARS)
Jack Reed (MS – Research Professor)
Eduardo Varona (APHIS-PPQ, Chair, I-AWG)
Diane Schuble (APHIS –PPQ; Chilli Thrips Task Force Coordinator)

Important Discussions: Lance O kicked off the call and proceeded to ask for updates from each of the groups.

Updates from the Subgroups

Diagnostics- Amanda H discussed the status and interest level among the WPDN counterparts. Lance O said they would be welcome on the calls, but Amanda said they may be more interested in educational materials, particularly Dick Hoenisch. David H has been conducting quite a bit of NPDN-First Detector training in California that has included Master Gardeners and others. Dick is also involved in the NPDN Training and Education Subcommittee (for First Detector training). Chilli thrips education has been mentioned on these monthly calls. Amanda Hodges will discuss the WPDN's interest in participating in the chilli thrips task force calls with Carla Thomas and Dick Hoenisch. Lance O asked about CDFA and receiving chilli thrips samples. Lance may try to meet with CDFA on an upcoming trip to California.

Genetics- Cindy M reported on the different populations she has been able to obtain, but mentioned some difficulty in obtaining the sample from India.

Chemical management- Scott L reported he obtained the use of a garden for study. He will examine the long term impact of drenches and applications on roses. It is an educational opportunity for other studies, as well, such as population dynamics in the Houston area. Scott confirmed that C.T. is still in limited distribution in 3 Texas counties. Lance told the group about a Bayer trial. When used on a large acreage, there is a better response than in a greenhouse. Cristi reported that a new product is coming from Bioworks; however the chemical is already well established.

Biological Control- Matt C said that testing with predators looks promising. Next week he will work with Franklinothrips. He posed the question, should we start considering foreign exploration? Lance responded that although we still don't have what we need for roses, ID of predators is not being done well. We have to work harder on finding something else here. Lance pointed out that other countries reach out to Florida when conducting their own foreign

exploration. Scott L said, for Texas, please send any mites associated with chilli thrips in for ID. These predators need to be encouraged. Lance said giving them an extra pollen source, as well as suitable areas for egg laying would be helpful.

Communication/education/outreach- David H is keeping tabs on CA activity on chilli thrips. Scott L asked if people there are aware of the pest. David said that is a difficult question- yes and no, because Asian citrus psyllid is center stage right now. Different groups are sharing information on chilli thrips, however. Amanda H emailed the group a summary of activity. She reported on the webinar held this past October. The eLearning module is progressing, and Amanda explained the complexity of the project, the scope of the information it will provide, and its interactive features. This is a new technology that takes a lot of time to assemble. Lance O has submitted some video material that will be used. Amanda invited others to also submit material. One useful aspect will be the ability for approved people to view results of post quizzes and assess the effectiveness of training. Reviews of the eLearning module may start next week. Amanda reported Lance O's chilli thrips power point has been updated and he shared the NPDN SOP for APHIS PPQ Pest of Concern Scenario. Amanda noted that Dick Hoenisch has trained about 50 Master Gardeners in CA. Lance asked David H to send him the name of the CA Master Gardener Coordinator.

Two CA chilli thrips incidents were discussed: the border stop of empty delivery truck on July 1, 2008 with infested debris, originating in FL after stopping in OR and the FL resident relocating to CA with infested houseplants that were stopped. CA is being exposed. Will CA be ready to accept a blitz of samples people may be sending if C.T. is introduced? The biggest issues are that people should employ chemical rotation, and also that there is often a misdiagnosis and a fungicide is applied.

Scott L stated that the upcoming IPM meeting may be an opportunity to call for a side meeting with Rosarians to discuss C.T. Lance asked if there are other things we should develop for them. Scott said it was hard to tell because different audiences want different ways of receiving the information. Meanwhile, the Rose Society has asked Scott for a C.T. update.

Other items of discussion: Matt C asked where we go next. We wish to produce a document that incorporates the suggestions of each of the committees. Scott and Lance will compile and then put out for group review. They will also evaluate the frequency needed for TWG calls. They will get feedback from Industry on the document. The target date is one month to send out to the committee.

The usual procedure is that a document of this type is written and then shelved until a problem arises. Then it serves as a guide to address that problem. It gets updated as these instances occur.

The question was raised whether samples of CA port of entry C.T. interceptions could be sent to Cindy. That will be examined.

It was brought up by Scott that States may be saying they are getting C.T. from shipments from TX. Word must get out that if this is so, we need communication as to where it is coming from – no known TX nurseries have been identified for C.T.

Lance said that his website, which gets hits from all over the world, sometimes reflects hits in clusters of areas, which is interesting.

Next Call: To be scheduled after the document is compiled and circulated.

[TWG = Technical Working Group; IWG = Industry Working Group; I-AWG = Inter-Agency Working Group]