

**Chilli Thrips**  
**Technical Working Group**  
**Conference Call**  
**August 22, 2008** (2:00 – 3:00 pm; ET)

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**Participants:** Lance Osborne (Tri-Chair, TWG)  
Matthew Ciomperlik (Tri-Chair, TWG)  
Scott Ludwig (Tri-Chair, TWG)  
Cindy McKenzie (USDA-ARS)  
Cristi Palmer (NJ – IR-4 Ornamental Horticulture Program Manager)  
Stuart Reitz (USDA- ARS)  
Jack Reed (MS – Research Professor)  
Joe Chamberlin (Valent USA Corporation)  
Roxanne Garza (Geneticist, USDA APHIS PPQ CPHST)  
Eduardo Varona (Chair, I-AWG, FL, APHIS - PPQ)  
Diane Schuble (APHIS –PPQ; Chilli Thrips Task Force Coordinator)

**Important Discussions:** Lance O led the call and began by asking Eduardo V for an update from the Inter-Agency Working Group. Eduardo V reported that he is circulating TWG material to his group, allowing them to monitor TWG progress. He plans to hold a call the week of September 1. Lance O asked that Eduardo V please forward him their agenda.

Lance O proceeded to discuss the latest activities from the Industry Group. Unfortunately Lin was unable to be on the call. Lance asks what commodity interests need to be added to the Industry Group. He said the TWG is frustrated by the lack of interest by the vegetable industry. Scott L, Matt C, and Lance O agreed to collaborate on a letter to the IWG asking for more involvement. Joe C suggested copying vegetable trade journals. Scott mentioned that the Conserve development was based on resistance problems on vegetables.

Scott L updated the group on C.T. in Texas. It was first found in the landscape on 11/01/07, but it has been quiet until recently. In July, he received a call from the Houston Medical Center Complex. Scott found C.T. in all rose gardens. It was hard to determine if the thrips were brought in or not. It was too hard to trace because many landscape companies are contracted by the various hospitals and language barriers often play a role. He has been finding them on other plants in the complex. A call was held with Texas industry on August 8, 2008 in order to update them on the situation. This call may have had an impact. Unfortunately the Horticulture program at Texas A&M does not express any interest in C.T. & chooses not to participate. The question remains on how this pest could impact cotton. Scott observed that Western Flower Thrips have been a problem this year.

Lance O gave an update on C.T. in Florida. A number of landscape companies report an increase in population. The big news in that a 16 acre blueberry field in central Florida was found to be heavily infested. These plants were 2 years old so it is hard to determine the source and when it became infested. The environment is somewhat urban so it is possible they could

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have come from roses. A commercial nursery who had past issues with C.T. in their greenhouses reported this find. People are reporting that they manage C.T. but it is expensive. We must keep in mind it is closely linked to Western Flower Thrips. The recent Conserve issue impacts the chemical rotation for thrips management. Scott L asked if soft products, such as oils, may prevent attacks. Lance O said studies are still under way.

### **Updates from the Subgroups**

**Diagnostics-** Nothing to report

**Genetics-** Cindy M. reported that samples from strawberries are a 100% match to the Taiwan biotype. She is using PCR and sequencing methods. Roxanne G is also performing genetic testing. Lance O said he would send more samples from other hosts. Matt C stated the geneticists should definitively analyze where these C.T. originate in order to effectively focus on foreign exploration efforts. Lance agreed.

**Chemical management-** Scott L. said there is no new material to report but data will be sent in coming weeks. Lance O has posted Cristi's IR-4 report on the C.T. website. Joe C asked about cage studies. Lance O said they will be made soon. Scott L reported that it is a problem when the control plants play out.

**Biological Control-** Lance O. sent a report to the group today. There are problems with A. cucumeris. The Swirskii mite is working well. It is also performing well on screened peppers growing outside. Landscape plants are still a problem, however. Banker plants show promise but need to be tested that they do not spread a virus.

**Communication/education/outreach-** Lance O and Scott L reported that a major project was funded through the USDA. A teaching module will be added to the National Plant Diagnostics Network. The base unit will be placed by the end of the month. A power point will be ready for County Extension Agents. They will have referrals to other websites and videos are coming down the road.

**Practical Biology & Ecology-** Cindy M had nothing new to report. Lance O said he was working on thermal thresholds. Cindy M will pick up some tomato plants from him for more testing.

**Disease Transmission-** Lance O needs a WFT colony to perform this testing, but hasn't had a chance yet.

Lance O said we need to identify priorities. Landscapers need more alternatives than just the neonicotinoids that are effective right now. Again, soft products may be useful. Peaks in landscape populations are being observed now.

Lance O suggests we recruit a horticulturalist to include options on cultural control. Lance O also informed the group we need to replace people who are no longer participating.

**Next Call: Monday, September 29, 2008 (2 – 3 pm; ET)**

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