

SEPT 2010

PEST ALERT

DUPONCHELIA FOVEALIS

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THANKS TO JIM WYNN AND TRACY ELLIS OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY AG WEIGHTS AND MEASURES FOR THEIR ASSISTANCE. JIM PROVIDED INFORMATION ON DETECTION SURVEYS WITH IN THE STATE, AND TRACY PROVIDED PHOTOS FOR FIGURES 3 & 4 AND OTHER INFORMATION.

UCCE SAN DIEGO COUNTY,
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PLANTS ARE ON HOLD IN RESPONSE TO THE INVASION OF, *DUPONCHELIA FOVEALIS*

SOME PEOPLE HAVE CALLED IT DUFO FOR SHORT, BUT THIS MOTH DOES NOT HAVE AN OFFICIAL COMMON NAME. *DUPONCHELIA FOVEALIS* HAS INVADDED THE COUNTY BEFORE AND HAS PROBABLY BEEN HERE FOR QUITE A WHILE.

DUPONCHELIA IS KNOWN AS A SERIOUS PEST OF AGRICULTURE AND ORNAMENTAL PLANTS IN EUROPE, BUT IT IS NOT KNOWN TO OCCUR IN THE U.S. A DETECTION IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY IN APRIL WAS A MINOR ONE, AND FOLLOWING TREATMENT APPLICATIONS, FURTHER SURVEYS OF THE PROPERTY COULD NOT DETECT ANY MORE MOTHS OR LARVAE.

UNFORTUNATELY, A SECOND DETECTION OCCURRED IN JULY, AND A TRACE-BACK LEAD TO THE SAME AREA OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY BUT A DIFFERENT GROWER.

THIS DETECTION TRIGGERED AN EXTENSIVE SURVEY TO DETERMINE THE EXTENT OF THE INVASION IN CALIFORNIA. THE SURVEY DETECTED *DUPONCHELIA* IN LOS ANGELES, MONTEREY, ALAMEDA, ORANGE, SAN DIEGO, SAN LUIS OBISPO, SAN JOAQUIN, SAN MATEO, SAN BERNARDINO, RIVERSIDE, SANTA BARBARA, FRESNO, SAN FRANCISCO, AND VENTURA COUNTIES. IN ADDITION, IT HAS BEEN DETECTED IN ARIZONA.

THESE ARE THE CONFIRMED HOST PLANTS IT HAS BEEN OBSERVED ON IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY SO FAR: BEGONIA, CRINKLE-LEAF PLANT, ECHEVERIA, GERBERA, KALANCHOE, POINSETTIA, AND BEGONIA. THE LIST WILL MOST CERTAINLY GROW.

THE INCIDENCE AT THE SECOND GROWER'S FACILITY WAS VERY EXTENSIVE AND CAUSED A HOLD OF ALL PLANTS THROUGHOUT THE FACILITY. IT TOOK APPROXIMATELY TWO WEEKS OF INTENSIVE TREATMENT APPLICATIONS AND THE DESTRUCTION OF OLDER PLANTS IN ORDER TO RELEASE PORTIONS OF THE CROPS FOR SALE AND DISTRIBUTION.

YOUNGER PLANTS WERE TREATED PREVENTATIVELY.

IN ALL LIKELIHOOD, GROWERS OF *DUPONCHELIA* HOSTS HERE IN THE COUNTY WILL HAVE TO MONITOR FOR THE TIME BEING AND TREAT PREVENTATIVELY TO REMAIN MOTH-FREE.

I HAVE SUMMARIZED WHAT IS KNOWN ABOUT THE BUG IN A PEST NOTE BELOW, AND IT ISN'T MUCH. I CAN, HOWEVER, PROVIDE YOU WITH A FEW OBSERVATIONS FROM OUR EXPERIENCE SO FAR.

THE BUG IS RELATIVELY EASY TO KILL, BUT THEY ARE VERY HARD TO CONTACT WITH PESTICIDES AND APPLICATIONS DO NOT ALWAYS REACH THE FEEDING SITE. THEREFORE, SOME OF THE MORE EFFECTIVE COMPOUNDS AGAINST THIS PEST WILL NOT BE AS EFFECTIVE, ESPECIALLY SINCE WE ARE LOOKING AT AN ERADICATION EFFORT AT THIS POINT.

WHEN I NOTICED THAT POINSETTIA WAS A HOST AND KNOWING IT WAS POINSETTIA SEASON, I CRINGED. UNFORTUNATELY, WE HAVE OBSERVED LARVAE GIRDLING POINTS. THAT MEANS EVERYONE SHOULD BE LOOKING FOR IT AND SHOULD CONSIDER INITIATING A PREVENTATIVE PROGRAM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE OR THERE MAY BE CONSEQUENCES.

AS WITH THE Q BIOTYPE WHITEFLY, A MORE EXTENSIVE SURVEY OF OTHER STATES MAY INDICATE A WIDER DISTRIBUTION OF THE MOTH THAN EXPECTED. IF SO, WE MAY END UP DEALING WITH THE MOTH IN THE SAME MANNER AS OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE EUROPEAN UNION. IN OTHER WORDS, IT JUST MAY END UP BEING ANOTHER WIDESPREAD PEST THAT NEEDS CONTROL MEASURES. WE SHALL SEE.

SEE THE FULL PEST NOTE AT THIS WEB ADDRESS:
[HTTP://CESANDIEGO.UCDAVIS.EDU/FLORICULTURE_&_NURSERY/](http://cesandiego.ucdavis.edu/floriculture_&_nursery/)