Biocontrol Control Conference for Greenhouse Growers

Find out ...

- how growers in New Jersey and New York made biological control the center of their greenhouse operations
- what to do to get ready for adding biological control to your operation
- what options are available to control thrips, aphids, and some foliar diseases
- what chemical pesticides are compatible with biological control organisms

For more topics and registration information, get the conference brochure

Aster Yellows

We received a picture of Echinacea showing symptoms of aster yellows, a disease caused by a phytoplasma. Aster yellows is spread by leafhoppers, especially the aster leafhopper, which migrates northward each year from the southern US. When a leafhopper feeds on an infected plant, the leafhopper becomes “infected” with the phytoplasma and remains infected and able to transmit the disease throughout its life.

There are numerous strains of aster yellows infecting over 300 species of plants, including ornamentals such as aster, coneflower, and rudbeckia; and vegetables such as carrot, celery and lettuce. Symptoms include overall yellowing and stunting of infected plants, as well as distortions of leaves and odd, leaf-like structures that develop in flowers.

Weeds that may harbor the disease include plantain, dandelion, and other broad-leaved weeds. Remove symptomatic plants and keep weeds down around susceptible flowers. Insecticides are generally not effective in managing this disease.
**Variegated Fritillary Caterpillars**

The variegated fritillary caterpillar has become a common pest on fall grown pansies. Look for orange and black caterpillars making holes on pansy foliage from feeding activity. Look for the orange and brown/black adults flying around productions areas. *Viola* spp. are common plant hosts, but they can also be found feeding on other plants that include passion-vine, lamb’s ear, flax, mayapple, and purslane.  

**Control:** Conserve and Neem can be used for control. Bt is an option for early instars. Pylon is an option in the greenhouse.

**Downy Mildew on Basil**

David Clement, Home and Garden Information Center, is reporting that downy mildew on basil is showing up everywhere now. Be on the lookout for the characteristic symptoms that include yellowing of the top side of the leaves between leaf veins and necrosis (browning) in advanced stages. Spores are gray and fuzzy and found on the underside of leaves. The spores coincide with the yellow areas to help distinguish this disease from nutritional problems. Be aware of this disease since customers might ask what is going on with their basil.
Summer Programs

Stormwater Management Program: August 20 and 21, 2014
TWO Locations:
August 20 - Montgomery County Extension Office, Derwood, MD
August 21 - Robinson Nature Center, Columbia, MD
The stormwater management program brochure is available on-line.

Summer Cut Flower Tour: September 9, 2014
Locations: Flowers by Bauers and Belvedere Farm in Harford County

On-line registration using a credit card is available at http://2014cutflowertour.eventbrite.com

The brochure has details on the program and a registration form for paying by check.