Perfect Weather for Growing

By: Stanton Gill

The last half of August has been “almost southern California” weather (minus the earth quakes and drought). It has been generally sunny and dry making perfect conditions to grow quality chrysanthemums and poinsettias. We continue to see low incidence of thrips on mums and very low populations of whiteflies on poinsettias. September is predicted to be warmer and drier than normal.

A bouquet on display at last year’s cut flower tour at Belvedere Farm

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2015 Cut Flower Tour

September 9, 2015
Location: Surreybrooke Farm, Middletown, MD

http://extension.umd.edu/ipm/conferences

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Interiorscape Conference

October 1, 2015
Location: Rawlings Conservatory, Baltimore, MD

Exciting Design and High Quality in Interiorscapes, McRae Anderson, McCaren Designs
Greenwalls in the Interiorscape Setting, McRae Anderson, McCaren Designs
Cockroach and Fungus Gnat Control in Interior Plantscapes, Jay Nixon, American Pest
Water Monitoring and Efficiency in Interiorscapes, Andrew Ristvey, University of MD Extension
Interiorscapes: Major Insects and Diseases - Management and Identification (Hands-on session), Stanton Gill, Karen Rane, and David Clement, University of MD Extension
MDA Pesticide Update, Ashley Jones, MDA

The program covers 8 credits for Private applicators and for Categories 3A, 3B and 10

Go online for more information at the MNLGA site
Bandedwinged Whiteflies
By: Stanton Gill
John Speaker called in to report lots of activity from bandedwinged whiteflies, *Trialeurodes abutilonea*, which are mainly being found on ornamental cabbage and kale. It was originally described on *Abutilon theophrasti*, but is now considered a polyphagous feeder. It is common in fields on buttonweed and soy bean plants. The plants we grow in greenhouses that are susceptible include poinsettia, geranium, hibiscus, and petunia. We have been finding it on poinsettias in greenhouses since 1995, but it rarely becomes a major problem. It does build up rather heavily on ornamental cabbage and kale so it is a good idea to deal with it now on these plants before numbers increase.

**Control:** This whitefly is susceptible to most of the materials labeled for whitefly control, but make sure you add a good sticker to the spray to get it to adhere to the waxy foliage on ornamental cabbage and kale.

Whiteflies on Poinsettias
By: Stanton Gill
Many growers are using Distance for early season control of whiteflies on poinsettias. It is still a good material to use, as is BotaniGard (entomopathogenic fungus *Beauveria bassiana*). A new product from SePro that you can try out for whitefly control is Rycar. It is not a systemic but rather a translaminar material that when sprayed to leaf surfaces travels down to the bottom of the leaf. We have tested it at 2.6 oz in 100 gallons of water with good results. It is called an insect behavior modifier. The whiteflies feed on treated foliage, then wander around aimless and stop feeding. They die of starvation in a couple of days.