



Greenhouse Pest Message April 25, 2022

Leanne Pundt, Extension Educator, UConn Extension

With the cooler temperatures you may be holding onto your greenhouse crops waiting for customer traffic with warmer, sunnier weather. Some options include lowering the greenhouse temperatures and moving cold tolerant plants outdoors.

Lowering the Greenhouse Temperatures

Lowering the greenhouse temperatures, if your plants have a well-developed root system, will help slow down plant development. You want to keep the day and night temperatures as close as possible to each other to reduce the potential for plant stretch.

For your cold tolerant plants, such as dianthus, nemesia, petunia, snapdragons, you can reduce greenhouse temperatures as low as 40-45°F. For your cold sensitive plants such as angelonia, celosia, portulaca, torenia and vinca, the greenhouse temperatures can be reduced to 50– 55°F. Lowering both the day and night setpoints will slow down plant growth.

With the lower temperatures, be a “dry” grower, and spot water as needed to prevent overwatering. Water as needed early in the day, so that foliage stays dry during the night. Heat, and vent to reduce humidity levels, and apply preventive Botrytis fungicides for ornamentals that are safe on blooms such as Affirm WDG (19), Astun (7), Pageant Intrinsic (7 &11), Mural (11&7).

For more: Tips on Preventing Botrytis During Cool, Cloudy Weather Periods on Greenhouse Ornamentals:

<https://uconn.sharepoint.com/sites/CAHNRExtension/Shared%20Documents/IPM/Greenhouse/2019ipsonpreventingbotrytisblight2.pdf>

For a complete list of products, see the New England Greenhouse Floriculture Guide online at <https://greenhouseguide.cahnrc.uconn.edu/>

Consult and follow pesticide labels for registered uses and plant safety information. To avoid potential phytotoxicity problems, spot test before widespread use. No discrimination is intended for any products not listed.

Funding provided by USDA NIFA CPPM grant 2021-70006-35582.

Disclaimer for Fact Sheets: The information in this document is for educational purposes only. The recommendations contained are based on the best available knowledge at the time of publication. Any reference to commercial products, trade or brand names is for information only, and no endorsement or approval is intended. UConn Extension does not guarantee or warrant the standard of any product referenced or imply approval of the product to the exclusion of others which also may be available. The University of Connecticut, UConn Extension, College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources is an equal opportunity program provider and employer.