



Greenhouse Pest Message, May 2, 2022

Leanne Pundt, Extension Educator, UConn Extension

In case your customers are asking you....

What are those paper envelopes in my Mother's Day hanging baskets?



These small paper “envelopes” are slow release “sachets” that contain beneficial predatory mites that feed upon young thrips larvae. (Thrips are very small insects (1-2 mm. long) with narrow bodies and fringed wings that can deform flowers and leaves of some of your favorite greenhouse plants.

More greenhouse growers are using predatory mites to manage thrips. These sachets contain bran, whitish food storage mites (that feed upon the bran) that are a food source for the beneficial predatory mite *Neoseiulus (Amblyseius) cucumeris* commonly known as “*cucumeris*”.

Cucumeris is a beige predatory mite (less than 1 mm. long) that attacks and kills thrips larvae. These sachets serve as a breeding system or “nursery” for the beneficial predatory mites which then emerge over a 4-week period. They are best placed in the

plant canopy, where they are protected from bright sunlight where higher temperatures and lower relative humidity slows down the reproduction of the predatory mites. These very small mites do not travel far, so a sachet is placed in each hanging basket.

The moral of the story – leave the envelope in your hanging basket and enjoy your attractive flowers for Mother’s Day and beyond!

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.