



Greenhouse Pest Message, July 15, 2022

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Continue monitoring for **two-spotted spider mites** and **thrips** as summer temperatures increase. Thrips may migrate from infested weeds and older crops to your younger crops of fall asters, garden mums, ornamental peppers etc.

Two-spotted spider mites love the hot dry temperatures in the summer months. In outdoor fields, spider mites may be first found adjacent to dusty roadways or at the margins of fields. Plants under water stress are also highly susceptible to spider mites. See previous pest message of June 20th for more on spider mites.

Watch for **heat stress** on garden mums! With the projected heat wave next week, outdoor grown mums grown in black plastic pots on black fiber cloth will experience heat stress. If the pots feel heavy and the media is saturated, do not irrigate, as overwatering and waterlogged soils favor poor root development and Pythium root rot (as will the high temperatures). However, do not let plants wilt down prior to watering. Cycles of too dry and then too wet, damages the young root tips, again making the plants more susceptible to Pythium root rot. Keep monitoring your pH and EC levels and check to see that the roots are white and healthy.

Adult **Scarab beetles** are here including Japanese, Oriental, and Asiatic garden beetles.

Japanese beetles are about ½ inch long, with a metallic green head. Wings are shiny or bronze in color. They feed between the leaf veins, skeletonizing the foliage, during the day. Favorite hosts include roses, echinacea, hibiscus, malva, evening primrose, and rudbeckia. Beans, fruit trees and numerous woody ornamentals are also fed upon. Japanese beetles overwinter as grubs in the soil.

Oriental beetles are about ½ inch long, straw colored or dark brown with a range of dark markings on their thorax. They fly at night but are also active during the day. Oriental beetles feed on flowers but rarely cause much injury.

Asiatic garden beetles resemble Japanese beetles except they are smaller and cinnamon brown in color. They feed at night and take refuge in the soil during the day. Often adults may be found when weeding, especially in the evening. Ornamentals such as aster, chrysanthemum, dahlia, delphinium, heuchera, phlox, rudbeckia and salvia may be feed upon at night. Basil is also a favorite host where they strip, shred and notch plant foliage.



Figures 1 & 2: Feeding damage from Japanese beetles (on right) Photo by L. Pundt and feeding damage from Asiatic Garden Beetles (on left). Photo by J. Boucher.

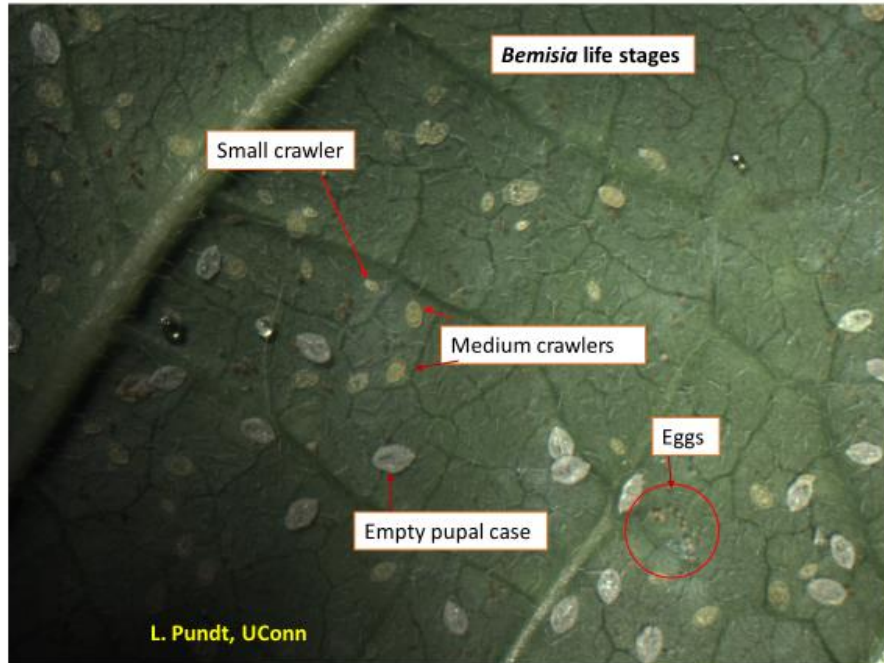


Figures 3 & 4 & 5: Adult Japanese beetle, oriental beetle, and Asiatic Garden Beetle (from left to right). Photos by L. Pundt

Larval stages of scarab beetles feed on the roots of grasses and other plants during the fall and spring months. There is one generation a year.

Incoming poinsettias – watch for Bemisia whiteflies

Look for whitefly eggs, nymphs, and pupae on the underside of the leaves, especially the oldest three leaves where most of the whiteflies may be found.



For more: Tips on Scouting for Insect and Mite Pests on Poinsettias – Go to UConn IPM webpage: <https://ipm.cahnر.uconn.edu/> and then greenhouse under program areas and then under publications, you will see a heading for scouting tips.

During the first month of poinsettia production, it is critical to support healthy root development by managing fungus gnat larvae. Repeated srenches of beneficial nematodes (*S. feltiae*) (Nemasys or Nemashield) work well.

For additional options, including insect growth regulators for use against fungus gnat larvae , see New England Greenhouse Floriculture Guide online at: <https://greenhouseguide.cahnر.uconn.edu/>

Online registration is open for the **Greenhouse Biological Control Conference on August 16th** at the Jones Auditorium in New Haven, CT. See: <https://greenhouse.uconn.edu/biocontrol-2/>

Featured speakers include:

- Ron Valentin, Director of Technical Business, Anatis BioProtection
- Suzanne Wainwright Evans, Buglady Consulting
- Elwood Roberts, Plant Products
- Michael Brownbridge, Bioworks

Registration includes boxed lunch and five pesticide credits. Preregistration is required, no walk ins. Registration will end on Friday, August 12th.

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