Greenhouse Pest Message July 29, 2022
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Garden mums

Thrips, aphids, leafhoppers and **occasional caterpillars** have been reported. With hot dry conditions, thrips are migrating from outdoor desiccated plants and or weeds to your irrigated garden mums outdoors or in greenhouses. In outdoor mum fields, occasional melon aphids are often kept in check by natural occurring natural enemies. However, if you see the host specific chrysanthemum aphids, management is needed.


Figures 1 & 2: Melon aphids (on left) and chrysanthemum aphids (on right). Photos by L. Pundt

Continue to monitor soil moisture levels to insure adequate moisture levels, overall root health, and monitor pH and EC levels to ensure they are in the proper range.


Figures 3 & 4: Wilting and drought stress on garden mums. Photos by L. Pundt
If pH levels are too high and above the optimum level of 5.4 to 5.8, iron deficiency may occur. Look for interveinal yellowing on the youngest leaves. Sometimes, only certain varieties may show symptoms. Keep in mind if you do not have healthy roots, you will not get uptake of iron and other nutrients. If pH levels are too high, continue to apply acid based fertilizers such as 20-10-20, or 18-8-17. Chelated iron, such as Sprint 138 or 330 can be applied as a full volume drench to moist soil at a rate of 4 to 5 ounces per 100 gal. Be sure to rinse foliage with clear water to avoid any phytotoxicity or pitting on the leaves.

Interveinal chlorosis of the older leaves may be due to magnesium deficiency that can be corrected by the application of Epsom salts.

Although mums are heavy feeders, they can still be injured by high salt levels. This is especially true if plants are stressed by drought or if you are feeding when the media is dry.

High Salts Injury
High salt injury may start as mild chlorosis and then progress to browning or necrosis of the leaf edges. Roots are injured by high concentration of soluble salts in the growing medium. Plants wilt during the heat of the day. Injured roots may be more susceptible to *Pythium,* too. (See previous week's message of July 21, 2022 for more information on Pythium root rot).

Figures 5 & 6: High salts injury to foliage (on left) and roots (on right). Photos by L. Pundt

To prevent soluble salts injury: avoid excessive fertilization, and when irrigating apply enough water to allow sufficient leaching. If you have high soluble salts, irrigate with clear water and allow at least 20% leaching.

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

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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