



Greenhouse Pest Message, March 24, 2023

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So far, growers are just reporting spotty outbreaks of **aphids** on their favorite hosts. As you know, aphids tend to develop in hot spots on just one or two plants. With regular scouting, early detection can minimize losses. For retail growers, you can then take the aphid infested plants outside and use a forceful jet of water to hose off the aphids. The aphids will have a hard time climbing back onto the host plant plus their stylets will be broken so they cannot feed and will starve to death. (Hopefully, many of you have already applied preventive drenches against aphids).

More on *Thrips parvispinus*

UF/IFAS Extension in Florida have just posted a new webpage on *Thrips parvispinus*: <https://mrec.ifas.ufl.edu/lsolab/thrips/thrips-parvispinus/>

This web page lists what is known so far about its host range, biology, damage, and control recommendations.

Gardenias are one of their favorite ornamental hosts. Other hosts listed include: anthurium, brugmansia, peppers, citrus, hibiscus, hoyo, mandevilla, and Vigna. In Europe, reported hosts include Dipladenia, Mandevilla, Gardenia, Gerbera and Schefflera. For more, see Table 3, Reported Host Plants.

Thrips parvispinus is one of the smallest thrips you will see. *Thrips parvispinus* completes its life cycle in only 13 to 14 days on chili pepper under greenhouse conditions. Eggs are inserted into plant tissue. Larva drop down into the soil to pupate. Cold tolerance is not known.

Feeding damage looks like broad mite damage but also look for the silver scars in the foliage.

The UF/IFAS Extension webpage does not list any control recommendations.



Based upon its host range if you are or soon will be receiving potential host plant material from Florida, quarantine incoming shipments and watch them carefully for thrips and their damage.

In the literature, it is reported that **white sticky traps** are more effective for monitoring.

White sticky traps are available from Great Lakes IPM

https://www.greatlakesipm.com/product_search/?q=white+sticky+traps+

Keep them as far as possible from your PEPPER transplants and keep your workers from moving from potential host foliage plants to potential vegetable transplant hosts.

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

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