



Greenhouse Pest Message April 6, 2023
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Incoming Mandevilla, Dipladenia and Hibiscus Tropical Plants



These popular tropical plants are susceptible to numerous pests. For example,

- Mandevilla are susceptible to **two spotted spider mites, oleander aphids, mealybugs, whiteflies,** and **thrips.**
- Dipladenia are susceptible to **aphids, two spotted spider mites, thrips,** and **mealybugs.**
- Tropical hibiscus is prone to **whiteflies, aphids** and **two spotted spider mites.**

So, they are susceptible to a wide range of insect and mite pests plus are grown in southern regions where rigorous spray programs are in use. So, if you detect any of the above pests, it is possible that they may be resistant to many of the commonly used insecticides or miticides. Plus, due to the high levels of pesticide use and long-lasting residues, a waiting period is needed before applying any biological control agents.

So, what can you do?

- Quarantine plants in an isolated area (I know, almost impossible in the spring).
- Monitor for key pests.
- Provided you can obtain good coverage, apply a broad-spectrum horticultural oil. In over 100 years of use, there haven't been any documented cases of resistance to oils developing.
- Although there are several oil-based products available (Ultra-Pure Oil, Triact 70), SuffOil-X tends to be safer to use. SuffOil-X is an 80% pre-emulsified, highly refined, high paraffinic, low aromatic, horticultural

mineral oil.

- Applying SuffOil-X results in a very thin, even layer of oil that results in faster dry times, resulting in less chance of phytotoxicity or plant damage.
- SuffOil X is labeled against many soft bodied insect and mite pests such as aphids, mites, scales, thrips, and whiteflies.

Tips for Use:

- Ensure thorough coverage (a battery-operated backpack sprayer works well) to the underside of the leaves
- Apply during conditions that promote fast drying times
- Avoid applying during humid days or after rainfall or when they are high temperatures
- Avoid applying to plants that are drought stressed
- Do not tank mix or apply in rotation with sulfur
- Read [label](#) closely for plant safety precautions

Inspect growing tips for any damage that resembles broad mite damage. See <https://mrec.ifas.ufl.edu/lsolab/thrips/thrips-parvispinus/> <https://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/news/2023/03/29/scientists-warn-of-invasive-plant-pest-say-early-detection-reporting-key/>

and previous pest messages of [January 27](#) and [March 24](#), 2023

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