Greenhouse Pest Message July 14, 2023
Leanne Pundt, UConn Extension

Thank you to those of you that attended the **Diagnosis and Management of Plant Diseases in Ornamental Greenhouses** Workshop to learn more about the diagnosis of diseases and abiotic disorders and fungicide programs to address these issues.

One take home message was to add the FRAC code to your spray records, to help in developing an effective rotation program. Many of the newer, targeted chemistries are 7 & 11 products, so it is important to not overuse these chemistries. You could also highlight the FRAC code on the container. (Just like you highlight precautions, such as do not use on plants with open blooms on the container label).

Unfortunately, we did not have time for a presentation on biological fungicides for this workshop. (Dr. Michael Brownbridge from BioWorks spoke on enhancing the use of biological fungicides at the Greenhouse Biological Control Conference in 2022). Since then, some additional online resources have been developed that may be helpful:

BioWorks has a new online tool to help determine if other pest management products are compatible with their products. You can see if tank mixing BioWorks products with other pesticides, adjuvants or fertilizers is compatible. You can select from drop-down lists. More than two products can be selected at the same time. Go to https://bioworksinc.com/ask-us/product-compatibility/

The NYS IPM Program has developed Biopesticide Efficacy Summaries: https://cals.cornell.edu/new-york-state-integrated-pest-management/eco-resilience/biocontrol/using-biocontrol/biopesticides

Do biopesticides including biological fungicides work? Can they effectively control insect and disease pests? Excel spreadsheets summarize the research conducted at universities on biopesticides to help answer these questions. https://cornell.app.box.com/v/greenhouse-biopesticides

(The EPA defines biopesticides as pesticides derived from natural materials such as animals, plants, and certain minerals. Biological fungicides are composed of beneficial microorganisms including fungi, bacteria, and actinobacteria, that are often found naturally occurring in soils and are used to suppress plant diseases. For example, potassium bicarbonate (MilStop) is a biopesticide but CEASE is a biofungicide.)

When reviewing this information, check with CT DEEP to make sure product is registered in CT and always read the label.

Newly revised IPM Factsheet:
UConn Greenhouse IPM Factsheet on **Biological Fungicides** focusing on how biological fungicides work, benefits and limitations, and an overview of some of the more commonly available products with information on target diseases, labeled crops and shelf life information.

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