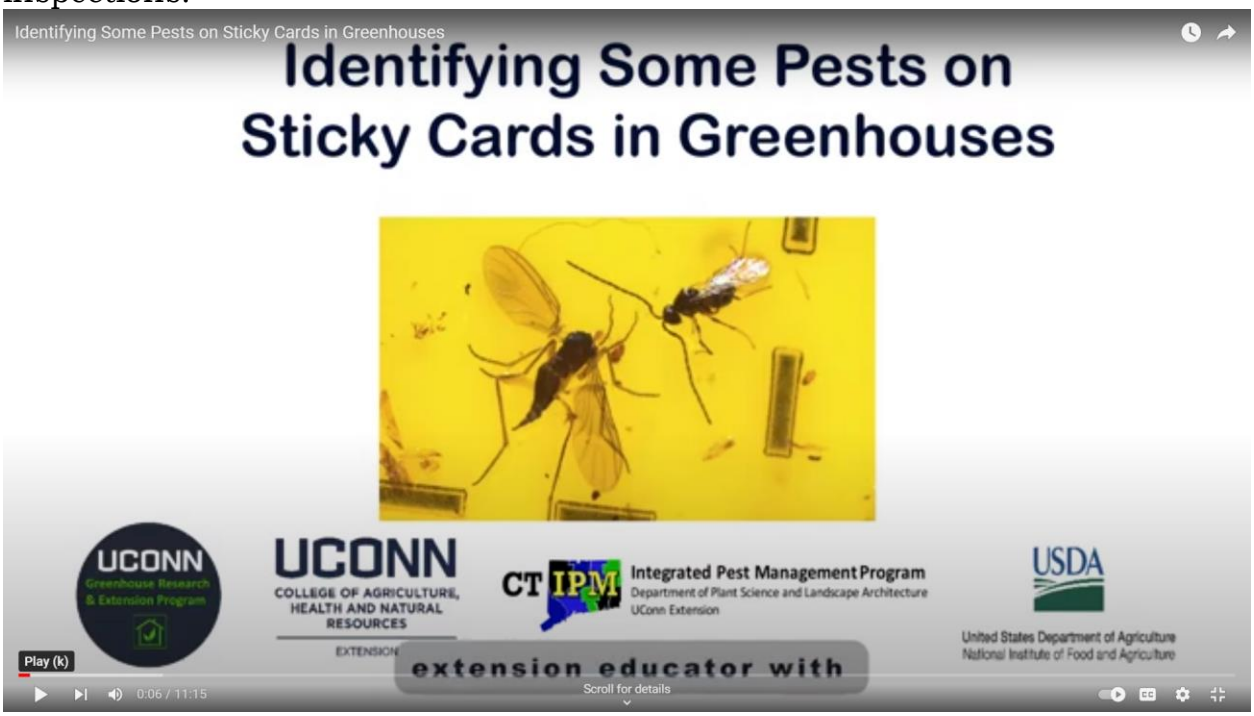
2023 Greenhouse Pest Message August 31, 2023
Leanne Pundt, UConn Extension

Poinsettia Scouting Tips and Online Resources

If you are relying on insecticides for use against whiteflies, thrips, and fungus gnats, focus on sticky card counts to detect pests early, combined with foliar inspections.



Identifying Some Pests on Sticky Cards in Greenhouses
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ofJ8fPBqBF0

Photo Gallery: Identifying Some Pest and Beneficial Insects on Your Sticky Cards: https://ipm.cahnr.uconn.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/3216/2022/12/2019ticky-Card-PhotosIPM2-1.pdf

Identificaion de algunas plagas en arjetas adhesivas en invernaderos
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q_XhWv2ijNE

A Sticky Subject: Yellow Sticky Cards: E-Gro Alert: https://www.e-gro.org/pdf/2023-12-32.pdf

You may start to see banded winged whiteflies on your sticky cards. Bandedwinged whiteflies migrate into greenhouses from outdoor weeds such as ragweed, beggar-ticks, and velvetleaf from the end of August through September. These native whiteflies are more grayish in color than greenhouse or sweetpotato whiteflies. Look for the two grayish bands that form a zig-zag

pattern across each front wing of the bandedwinged whitefly adults. They usually do not become a pest of poinsettias. When scouting, you may occasionally find immature stages on one or two plants. Just keep track of the sweetpotato or greenhouse whiteflies when checking your sticky cards.

Figure 1: Bandedwinged whitefly on sticky card. Photo by L. Pundt

Don't forget to supplement your sticky card counts with foliar and root inspections. *See* ***Tips on Scouting Poinsettia Insect and Mite Pests*** https://uconn.sharepoint.com/sites/CAHNRExtension/Shared%20Documents/IPM/Greenhouse/01Tips%20on%20Scouting%20Poinsettia%20Pestsfinal2017.pdf

If you are using biological control agents *(Eretmocerus eremicus, Encarsia formosa, Amblyseius swirskii)* against whiteflies*:* A multiple species BCA program works best against whiteflies.


Figures 3 & 4: Blister pack (small cardboard tags with a plastic chamber containing loose pupae of *Eretmocerus sp.)* on left and A. swirskii spread over poinsettia foliage on right. Photos by L. Pundt

Canadian researchers also have developed a presence/absence sampling plan for their growers using biological controls. Check 15 to 20 plants per block or bench, for at least ½ of the blocks in your greenhouses. Look on the underside of as many leaves as possible, holding plants above your head, and rate the entire plant as **with whitefly or without whiteflies. (Yes or No).**

Add up the number of infested plants and divide this by the total number of plants sampled to determine the % of infested plants. It's helpful to break this down by the varieties you grow. Often, white, variegated, or pink varieties tend to be more infested with whiteflies. They have light colored foliage which seems to be more attractive to the whiteflies than the darker foliage common with the red varieties grown today.

Canadian consultants use the general rule of thumb, that if fewer than 20% of your plants are infested with whiteflies by mid-September, you can continue using biological controls, but if more than 20% are infested, and it's the main variety you grow, spot treatments with compatible insecticides will be needed.

For more: The Tipping Point for Whitefly Control in Poinsettia
https://onfloriculture.com/2018/09/25/the-tipping-point-for-whitefly-control-in-poinsettia/

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