



Greenhouse Pest Message, November 3, 2023

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Late Season Poinsettias

Poinsettias are generally finishing well and starting to show color. Some of the wholesalers will start shipping next week.

The ideal night temperatures for bract expansion for most poinsettia varieties is from 65 to 68F.

Depending upon your market, ship date and variety, bracts may now be at different stages of development.

When 75 % of the bracts are of finished size, night temperatures should be at 62 F. When bracts are fully expanded, night temperatures should be at 60 F. Temperatures below 60F can increase the risk of **Botrytis** on the bracts, especially when they are fully expanded. For more: [The Best Bract Conditions](#):

If you are seeing hot spots of **whiteflies** or isolated pockets of **Botrytis blight**, what treatments are safe on tender poinsettia bracts?

Late Season Botrytis blight

Proper environmental and cultural management is the cornerstone of good Botrytis management. Preventive fungicide applications, proper plant spacing, proper night temperatures, good air flow, and watering practices are all needed to prevent Botrytis.

If you are considering fungicide treatments now, please make sure the fungicide is safe to tender bracts.



Figures 1&2: Botrytis on the more susceptible white cultivars Photos by L. Pundt

Some options to consider include:

- Affirm WDG (polyoxin D zinc salt) (FRAC 19) which has shown excellent flower safety over a large range of plants.
- Astun (isofetamid) (FRAC 7) is reported to be safe on open blooms, according to the company, with the use of a spreader sticker.
- Palladium (cyprodinil & fludioxonil) (FRAC (9 & 12) with CapSil at 4 fl. oz. to 100 gal).
- Postiva (difenoconazole & pydiflumetofen) FRAC 3 & 7) with CapSil at 4 fl. oz. per 100 gal).
- Spirato GHN (fludioxonil) (FRAC 12)

Differences in cultivars, culture and environmental conditions may increase or decrease bract sensitivity to pesticides. If you are inexperienced with using a fungicide, always test a small portion across varieties before treating your entire crop. Be sure to follow label directions. Consult the company's website for technical bulletins or call the company's technical representative before using a product for the first time.

It is also important to use a spreader sticker that is safe to bracts (if the label permits use), such as CapSil, but use it at a reduced rate (4 fl. oz. to 100 gal or ¼ tsp per gal). Do not apply CapSil more than once per week during bract development.

Late Season Whiteflies

Whitefly pressure was generally low this season, but you may be seeing whiteflies in hot spots on certain cultivars or locations.

If you are considering insecticide treatments now, please make sure the insecticide is safe to tender bracts.

In past years, growers have successfully used the following for late whitefly season control:

- Rycar (pyrifluquinazon) (MOA 9B) has contact and translaminar activity. Thorough spray coverage is needed. The SePRO technical literature reports that Rycar is gentle on biological control agents. Do not apply more than two applications per crop cycle.
- Savate (spiromesifen) (formerly Judo) (MOA 23) is labeled as a foliar spray with some translaminar activity. Savate is most effective against egg and immature WF nymphal stages providing up to 3 weeks residual control.
- Sanmite SC (pyridaben) (MOA 21A) works by contact against whitefly adults. Use Capsil to minimize pesticide residue on the bracts.

- Safari 20SG (dinotefuran) (MOA 4A) is labeled as a soil drench or foliar spray. Safari seems to be effective for end-of season treatments, but growers may be using higher rates than in the past, for example 18 ounces per 100 gallons. Drench applications may provide 4 to six weeks residual activity. Safari is very water-soluble, but drenches will **not** be effective on poinsettias with unhealthy roots.
- In contrast, Kontos (spirotetramat) (MOA 23) is very water insoluble and slow acting, so it is too late to apply Kontos as a drench. However, it can still be applied as a foliar spray, and the addition of a spreader sticker may improve its efficacy.
- TriStar (acetamiprid) (MOA 4A) is a contact insecticide with high absorption as a foliar spray used against whitefly nymphs and adults.

To knock down whitefly adults before shipping or sale, Rycar or Sanmite SC may be used.

Consult and follow pesticide labels for registered uses. No discrimination is intended for any products not listed. If any information is inconsistent with the label, then follow the label. The label is the law!

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