Integrated Pest Management Program
Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture
UConn Extension

Greenhouse Pest Message, January 12, 2024
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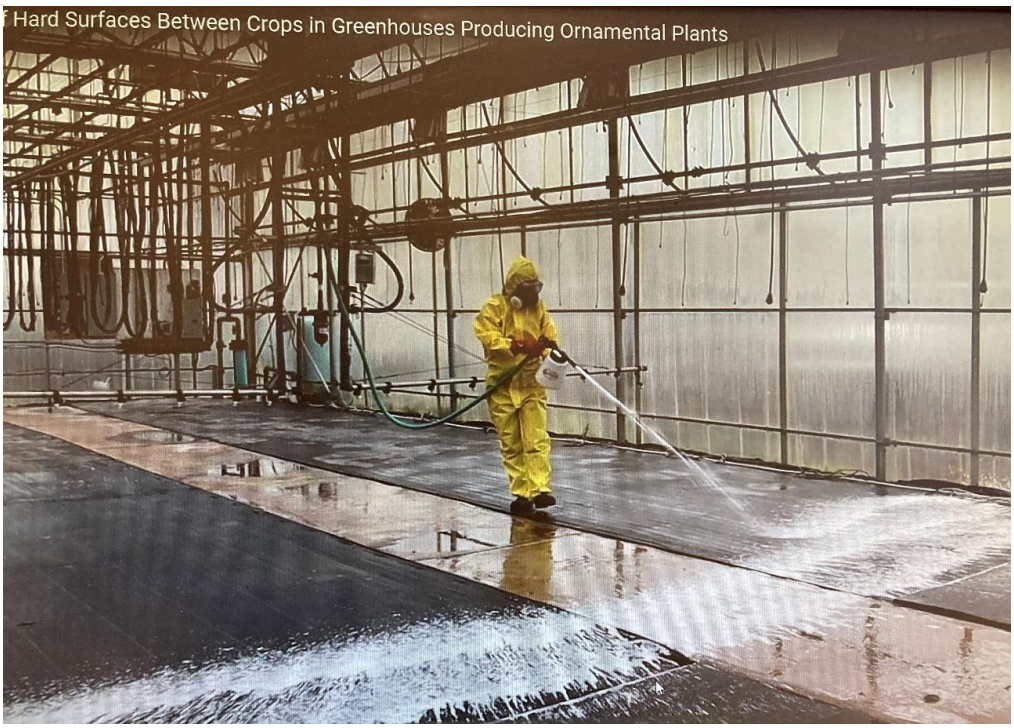
Start Clean to Stay Clean during the spring growing season. If you haven't thoroughly cleaned your greenhouses yet, it is one of the best ways to prevent pest problems.

Proper sanitation practices before and during the growing season is always less expensive than trying to remediate problems either by repeated pesticide applications or crop losses due to diseases.

On the UConn Greenhouse You Tube Channel
See Sanitation of Hard Surfaces Between Crops in Greenhouses Producing Ornamental Crops for tips



Applying a commercial greenhouse cleaner with a foamer and allow to sit for five minutes to remove organic matter and mineral deposits without scrubbing.

As you begin to start seedlings, here are some online resources to help your seedlings get off to a good start:
Avoid Common Mistakes when Germinating Seeds
Uneven Seed Germination in Plug Trays
Solid Seedlings

As plugs begin to arrive, remember that inspecting incoming plugs one of the most important scouting practices!

See: Scouting for Key Insect and Mite Pests on Key Plants in the Greenhouse

Last year**, aphids** were an ongoing problem and growers were having issues as early as February. With the disconcerting warmer temperatures, during the winter, I suspect this will continue for this year.

At the grower meeting earlier this month, one grower mentioned to me that they were seeing red aphids. Color is not the best way to identify aphids, as it is better to look at the area between the antennae, the length of the cornicles etc. For more see: Common Greenhouse Pests Aphids

However, green peach aphids have both green and red color forms or morphs. The closely related tobacco aphid also has a red morph. Aphids get their red color from the adoption of a gene from fungi that allows them to synthesize carotenoids. There are some reports that the red form of the tobacco aphid was more likely to develop resistance to insecticides. For example, it developed resistance to organophosphates in the early 1990's in tobacco fields. Green Peach Aphids – NC State

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