



**Greenhouse Pest Message, February 2, 2024**  
**Leanne Pundt, UConn Extension**

With the warmer and wetter weather this “winter”, warmer temperatures will speed up insect and mite development.

**Green peach aphids** (generation time)

- 58 F in 12 days
- 68 F in 7 days

Host plant will also influence development. On Chinese cabbage, green peach aphids (Davis et al. 2006), have a generation time and doubling time of:

	<u>Generation Time</u>	<u>Doubling Time</u>
50F	19.8 days	8.5 days
59F	16.6 days	5.6 days
68F	10 days	2.7 days

**Foxglove aphids** (generation time)

- 58 F in 11 days
- 68 F in 8 days

**Aphids** were an issue beginning in February last year. Will this continue this year with the warmer temperatures?

Female aphids in your greenhouses are borne pregnant and give birth to living young. In one month, one female aphid can produce 60 to 100 nymphs!



Figures 1 & 2: Green peach aphids at base of Bellis (English Daisy) plug in overwintering perennial house (on left) and aphids and their shed skins on weeds (on right). Photos by L. Pundt

**Two spotted spider mites** will develop from egg to adult:

- 54F in 40 days
- 60F in 33 days
- 70F in 14 days

Temperature is the most important factor for spider mite development, but spider mites also lay more eggs and develops faster at lower relative humidity levels. Usually 75% of the population is females. (host plants also influence their development).

Did you miss any weeds behind furnaces or outside the greenhouse that may be harboring **aphids, two-spotted spider mites, whiteflies, or mealybugs?**

Now is also a good time to ask yourself, where are those **mealybugs** hiding?

- Are they on pots that have not been cleaned and sanitized?
- On “pet” plants?
- On greenhouse benches?

Keep in mind that [checking incoming plugs](#) is one of the most important scouting practices. If your greenhouses are thoroughly cleaned and sanitized and you are receiving shipments of plugs or cuttings, have all your fertilizer injectors been calibrated? They should be calibrated at least once before your spring production begins.

Go to [the UConn Greenhouse Channel](#):

And view [Inspect the Proper Function of Fertilizer Injectors](#) (English)

[Inspeccione el funcionamiento correcto de los inyectoros de fertilizante](#) (Spanish)

The image shows a video player interface. At the top, the video title is "Inspect the proper function of fertilizer injectors". Below the title is a large image of a white IBC tank with a complex piping system and blue tanks on top, set in a greenhouse environment. The video player includes a progress bar at the bottom showing 0:02 / 7:48, a "Scroll for details" link, and various control icons. Logos for UConn Greenhouse Research & Extension Program, UConn College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources Extension, CT IPM Integrated Pest Management Program, and USDA are displayed at the bottom of the video frame.

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