Greenhouse Pest Message, October 22, 2021
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Unfortunately, an established **spotted lanternfly population** was just detected on its favorite host, tree of heaven, in Cheshire. For more see: https://portal.ct.gov/CAES/CAPS/CAPS/Spotted-Lanternfly---SLF

Late Season Whiteflies on Poinsettias
With the warm fall temperatures, whitefly numbers are starting to increase. Often growers report that their white and variegated varieties are more susceptible, but this is not always the case.

Late season treatments may still be needed. In the past years, growers have successfully used the following for late 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 nymphal stages providing up to 3 weeks residual controls.
- 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.

Mainspring (cyantraniprole) (MOA 28) is labeled for foliar and systemic use but is best used **early** in production. Mainspring works by ingestion and is translaminar. It also can be absorbed by the roots and stem and is acropetally systemic. The Syngenta bulletin "Mainspring Best Practices Q&A"

recommends application no later than the second week of October. Differences in cultivars, culture and environmental conditions may increase or decrease bract sensitivity to pesticides and **extra care** is always needed.

Lewis Mites on Poinsettias are a very occasional pest of poinsettias, and I haven't seen them in many years until just this week. (They are also reported on citrus). At first, you may just see some faint speckling or stippling that could be confused with nitrogen deficiency. Often populations go undetected until mid-October when the characteristic stippling damage is more noticeable.

Figure 1: Faint stippling on poinsettia leaves. Photo by L. Pundt

Look on the underside of the leaves for the Lewis mites.

Lewis mites are small, 1/16-inch-long, slender, and straw colored. Adults have several small spots. Photo submitted by a grower.

If only a few plants are infested, tossing them is one option. Usually by the time you see the damage, the population is high, so generalist predatory mites would have a hard time reducing their numbers.

There are several miticides that could be used, and as many of them work by contact, good coverage is needed. Some options include Avid (MOA 6), Akari (MOA 21A), and Savate (MOA 23), Floramite (MOA 20D) and Shuttle O (MOA 20B) also can be used. The miticide Floramite is soft on bio's especially *Eretmocerus*, according to Sarah Jandricic, OMFRA.

For more: https://onfloriculture.com/2016/09/06/lots-and-lots-of-lewis-mites/