Greenhouse Pest Message, March 18, 2022
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Pests observed in my travels include isolated **aphids, thrips, fungus gnats,** and **botrytis stem canker.**

With the challenges obtaining growing media, many of you may have been storing your growing media since last fall. If your growing media is stored outside and stays moist, it may support more fungus gnat activity. Tears or openings in the bags enable resident, native fungus gnat populations to enter the media bags.

Adults are attracted to mixes with high microbial activity, or with high amounts of peat moss or compost or composted hardwood bark. Avoid using mixes with immature composts less than one year old. However, no potting mix is immune to fungus gnat infestations. Adult females prefer to lay their eggs in protected, humid crevices in the media.

With the high costs of fuel both increasing travel costs and food prices, growers are gearing up for expected continued demand for vegetable and herb transplants for home gardeners and for their CSA production.

Here are Some Resources on Growing Vegetable and Herb Transplants for You

With the increased interest in local food production, more growers are producing vegetable and herb bedding plants and transplants. The following online resources have been updated to provide you with the latest, most up- to-date information with easy to read tables to help you find information quickly.

Growing Vegetable Transplants

https://nevegetable.org/vegetable-transplant-production

Figure 1: Tomato transplants. Photo by L. Pundt

The vegetable transplant section of the **New England Vegetable Guide** that is online has recently been updated.
This section includes up- to- date information on:

- Growing Media and Nutrition (including organic fertility)
- Seeding and Transplanting
- Plant Culture and Height Management
- Disease Management
- Insect and Mite Management
- Table on ***Scouting Guidelines and Biological Control Options*** for Vegetable Bedding Plants.
- Table on ***Fungicides and Bactericides*** Labeled for Vegetable Transplants and Bedding Plants.
- Table on ***Insecticides*** *Labeled* for Insect and Mites on Vegetable Transplants and Bedding Plants

If you are growing vegetable transplant for production in the greenhouse, consult charts developed by Michigan State University Extension (just check to make sure the products are registered in Connecticut):

Registered Products for Common Greenhouse Diseases on Vegetables and Herbs:
https://veggies.msu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/GH_veg-herbs_2019_FINAL.pdf

Recommended insecticides for Common Greenhouse Pests on Vegetables, Herbs and Leafy Greens:
https://www.canr.msu.edu/uploads/files/AABI/Recommendations_for_veg_and_herbs_in_GH_Updated_April_13_2017.pdf

Growing Herb Bedding Plants

Figure 2: Rosemary plugs with powdery mildew. Photo by L. Pundt

Go to the UConn Greenhouse IPM Website:
https://ipm.cahnr.uconn.edu/greenhouse/

And go to Herb Transplants for files on Tips on Scouting Herb Bedding Plants, Selected Fungicides, Selected Insecticides, Basil Downy Mildew, etc. I have also attached the PDF files on selected insecticides and fungicides labeled for use on herbs.

Look under scouting tips on the IPM website
https://ipm.cahnr.uconn.edu/greenhouse-publications/
Scouting Herb Bedding Plants: Pest and Disease ID

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