



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

Key plants are those specific plant species or cultivars that may be infested with key insect or mite pests problems every year. This can vary from location to location and from year to year. Often, certain cultivars may be more susceptible than others. Here is a list that I gathered from references listed at the end of this article plus personal observations. It is helpful to develop your own list based upon your own experience and observations.

Key insect and mite pests include: aphids, broad mites, cyclamen mites, fungus gnats, mealybugs, two-spotted spider mites, whiteflies and western flower thrips.

Aphids

Key bedding plants affected: Ageratum, alyssum, basil, begonia, brugmansia, calibrachoa, Cole crops, celosia, chrysanthemum, dahlia, dianthus, eggplant, geraniums (ivy and zonal), gerbera daisy, herbs (many), fuchsia, garden impatiens, *Ipomoea*, leafy greens, mandevilla, marigolds, nasturtium, pansy, pepper, portulaca, primula, ranunculus, roses, salvia, sempervivum, snapdragon, strawberry, tomato, verbena, zinnia, etc.

Key herbaceous perennials affected: *Acanthus, Achillea, Alcea, Asclepias, Aster, Bellis, Dianthus, Digitalis, Heuchera, Helianthus, Helleborus, Hibiscus, Monarda, Papaver, Oleander, Phlox, Primula, Rudbeckia, Salvia, Sedum, Veronica, and Viola.*

Root Aphids: *Aster, Coreopsis, Lysimachia, Sedum, Semperviven, Veronica.*

Broad Mites

Key bedding plants affected: Ageratum, begonia, chrysanthemum, dahlia, fuchsia, gerbera daisy, gloxinia, English ivy, lysimachia, New Guinea impatiens, salvia, scaevola, snapdragon, verbena, vegetative petunia, peppers, thunbergia, wishbone flower (torenia).

Cyclamen Mites

Key bedding plants affected: African violet, begonia, celosia, chrysanthemum, dahlia, fuchsia, gerbera daisy, rosemary, petunia, impatiens, English ivy, geranium, garden mums, *Ipomoea*, snapdragon, strawberry, verbena, viola.

Key herbaceous perennials Affected: *Aconitum, Clematis, Delphinium.*

Fungus Gnats

Broad host range, most common in damp areas, but young plugs and plants with succulent stems may be more prone to injury.

Key plants affected: Begonia, campanula, geranium, coleus, and sedum.

Mealybugs

Key bedding plants affected: Begonia, cacti, coleus, croton, dracaena, English ivy, fuchsia, gardenia, hibiscus, mandevilla, oleander, orchids, pothos, succulents, stephanotis, and many tropical foliage plants.

Two-spotted spider mites

Key bedding plants affected: Ageratum, beans, brugmansia, celosia, dahlia, dracaena (spike), eggplant, English ivy, fuchsia, ivy geraniums, many different herbs (lemon balm, lemon verbena, etc.), hibiscus, lantana, lobelia, mandevilla, marigolds, New Guinea impatiens, portulaca, roses, salvia, sweet potato vine, thunbergia, tomatoes, verbena, viola, vinca vine.

Key herbaceous perennials affected: *Alcea, Aquilegia, Baptisa, Buddleia, Campanula, Delphinium, Filipendula, Gaillardia, Hemerocallis, Hydrangea, Iris, Lamium, Lavatera, Monarda, Nepeta, Papaver, Phlox, Potentilla, Primula, Rudbeckia, Scabiosa, Thalictrum, Verbena, and Viola.*

Whiteflies - Greenhouse Whiteflies

Key bedding plants affected: Ageratum, alyssum, bacopa, fuchsia, gerbera, daisies, many different herbs (such as scented geraniums, and lemon verbena), hydrangea, lantana, primula, salvia, tomato, zinnia, etc.

Key herbaceous perennials affected: *Acanthus, Aster, Alcea, Hibiscus, Helenium, Leonotis, Lavatera, Malva, Primula and Solidago.*

Generally more of an issue if pet plants or stock plants have been overwintered.

Whiteflies- Sweet Potato Whiteflies

Primarily on poinsettia crops, also gerbera daisy, hibiscus

Key herbaceous perennials affected: *Asters, Gaillardia, Eupatorium, Helianthus, Lavandula, Salvia*

Western Flower Thrips

Key Bedding Plants Affected: Ageratum, alyssum, basil, bacopa, begonia, calibrachoa, calendula, celosia, chrysanthemum, dahlia, dianthus, dracaena spikes, eggplant, fuchsia, herbs (especially tarragon), gazania, geraniums (ivy), gerbera daisy, *Ipomoea*, marigolds, New Guinea Impatiens, petunia, pepper, portulaca, primula, salvia, snapdragon, tomato, verbena, zinnia.

Key herbaceous perennials affected: *Alcea, Asclepias, Aster, Campanula, Centaurea, Chrysanthemum, Coreopsis, Crocosmia, Digitalis, Echinacea, Eupatorium, Lamium, Lupinus, Malva, Monarda, Penstemon, Platycodon, Polemonium, Phlox, Rudbeckia, and Tanacetum.*

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