How to keep your bios happy

Rose Buitenhuis
Banker plants

Provide a **food source** and/or an alternative **reproduction site** for natural enemies

Ensure a **constant presence** of natural enemies in the crop

- Castor beans
  - predatory mites
- Ornamental peppers
  - predatory mites
  - *Orius*
**Orius** banker plants
**greenhouse studies**

- Flowering ornamental peppers: Black Pearl, Purple Flash
- **Orius** eat pollen in the flowers, lay eggs in the stems/leaves
• Adding food to banker plants
• Warm temperatures
## Supplemental food

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Cattail pollen</td>
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<td><em>Ephestia</em> eggs</td>
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Thrips are omnivores

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Long term: predators benefit more through increased populations
Other strategies

- Other pests – benefits of mixed diets (e.g. thrips and whiteflies)
- Mulch layer with astigmatid (food) mites
- Artificial fibres provide oviposition sites for predatory mites
- Pollen on-twine (food and oviposition sites)
- Volatiles

If interested, ask me for references