Preparing the foundation for successful thrips control

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Preparation
What do you know about the plants you will be growing?

Examples:

• Chrysanthemum cultivars show differences in susceptibility
  – Volatiles, flower colour
  – Feeding damage
  – Oviposition

• Do you have a choice?
Attraction of thrips to other spring crops
Sampled weekly

2-3 varieties each of
- Petunia
- Callibrachoa
- Verbena
- Bidens
- Lobularia
- Impatiens
- Dahlia
- Diascia
- Lantana
- Geraniums
Monitoring thrips in spring crops

The good news...
- Most plants (>72%) had low thrips numbers
- < 5/plant on average

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Mean # thrips/plant</th>
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<tr>
<td>Apr 27</td>
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<td>May 4</td>
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<td>May 11</td>
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BUT…
Plants to keep an eye on

Verbena v. Lanai
Twister Purple

Calibrachoa l v.
Evening Star

Petunia v.
Watermelon
Charm

Lobularia v. Yolo
Top Purple

Lobularia v. Lavendar

Calibrachoa l v.
Evening Star

Verbena v. Lanai
Twister Purple
Visible damage?
Preparation

Use this knowledge to your advantage

– Select ‘resistant’ cultivars
– Use to guide your scouting program
– Indicator plants
– Set up ‘trap plants’
– Focus for biocontrol
Preparation
Understand potential side-effects of production practices

- Reducing fertilizer can reduce pest abundance
Preparation
Exclusion/sanitation

Sanitation

- Clean up crop residues
- No pet plants
- Disinfect benches, flood tables, drip lines, etc.
- Minimize weeds outside the greenhouse

Exclusion

- Keep out intruders
- Screen vents