



Current Report

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Management of Insects and Mites in Greenhouse Floral Crops

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Insect and mite pests of greenhouse crops present unique challenges with respect to their management and control. Plants are frequently moved in and out of the greenhouse, creating opportunities for repeated introduction of pests. Crops are grown year-round in a protected environment that is favorable for pest development. Additionally, greenhouse pests often exist in the absence of their natural enemies unless predators and parasitoids are intentionally introduced.

Many greenhouse pest populations can be reduced by implementing and following a comprehensive integrated pest management (IPM) plan. At a minimum, such a plan should include the following:

- a regular pest monitoring program coupled with careful recordkeeping
- implementation of exclusion techniques and careful sanitation practices when handling new plants and growing media
- thoroughly cleaning the greenhouse after each production cycle
- keeping all openings into the greenhouse (doors, screens, ventilators) in good repair
- cultural practices such as mowing grass around the greenhouse to reduce pest harborage
- introduction and/or conservation of biological control agents when appropriate

Chemical pesticides can be part of a comprehensive IPM plan, but should not substitute for good horticultural practices, or be used as “preventative insurance” against pests. Such practices are rarely economically or environmentally justifiable, and provide a recipe for the selection of pests that are resistant to the pesticide. Pesticides should be applied using specified application methods to assure optimal control. It is especially important to follow all safety precautions when applying pesticides in a greenhouse due to its enclosed environment. Follow ALL label directions, especially all Worker Protection Standards. Pesticide recommendations in this publication are correct as of the “Modified Date.” Always check the label that came with the purchased pesticide for the most current application directions and restrictions. More information on greenhouse pest management can be found in the following Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service publications:

- HLA-6707, Pesticide Use and Safety in the Nursery and Greenhouse
- HLA-6710, Integrated Pest Management in Commercial Greenhouses: An Overview of Principles and Practices
- HLA-6711, IPM- Scouting and Monitoring for Pests in Commercial Greenhouses
- E-1011, Arthropod Pest Management in Greenhouses and Interiorscapes

<i>Pest</i>	<i>Pesticide Common Name</i>	<i>Pesticide Trade Name</i>	<i>Pesticide Class*</i>	<i>REI**</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Aphids	Acephate	Orthene/Precise	1B	24	Has translaminar-systemic activity as a spray. Check label for phytotoxicity information.
	Abamectin	Avid	6	12	Has translaminar-systemic activity as a spray.
	Acetamiprid	Tristar	4A	12	Has translaminar-systemic activity as a spray.
	Azadirachtin	Azatin/Ornazin/Molt-X	18B	4/12	Slow-acting. Works best when tank mixed with other insecticides.
	<i>Beauveria bassiana</i>	Botanigard/Naturalis/Mycotrol	M	4	Three to five applications may be needed.
	Bifenazate + Abamectin	Sirocco	25 + 6	12	Suppression only.

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	Bifenthrin	Attain/Talstar†	3	12	
	Chlorpyrifos + Cyfluthrin	Duraplex	1B + 3	24	Aerosol formulation.
	Clothianidin	Celero	A	12	Has translaminar-systemic activity. Apply as a foliar or drench.
	Cyfluthrin	Decathlon	3	12	Systemic insecticides with long residual activity. Highly water soluble.
	Dinotefuran	Safari	4A	12	
	Fenpropathrin	Tame†	3	24	May be combined with acephate.
	Fonicamid	Aria	9C	12	Has translaminar-systemic activity. Apply as a foliar or drench.
	Fluvalinate	Mavrik	3	12	
	Imidacloprid	Marathon/Benefit/Mantra	4A	12	Systemic insecticide with long residual activity.
	Insecticidal soap (potassium salts of fatty acids)	M-Pede	NS	12	Short residual activity. Thorough coverage of all plant parts is important. Avoid applying at frequent intervals.
	Kinoprene	Enstar II	7A	4	Slow acting. Only works on young aphids.
	Neem oil (clarified hydrophobic extract of neem oil)	Triact Oil	UN	4	Short residual activity. See note 2.
	Paraffinic oil	Sunspray Ultra-Fine Oil	UN	4	Short residual activity. Avoid applying at frequent intervals. See note 2.
	Permethrin	Astro	3	12	
	Pymetrozine	Endeavor	9B	12	Has systemic activity. Prevents insects from feeding by blocking mouthparts.
	Pyrethrins	Pyreth-It/Pyrethrum	3	12	
	Spirotetramat	Kontos	23	24	Has translaminar-systemic activity. Apply as a foliar or drench.
	Thiamethoxam	Flagship	4A	12	Systemic insecticide. Applied as a foliar or drench.
	Tolfenpyrad	Hachi-Hachi	21A	12	Do not make more than two applications per crop cycle.
Caterpillars	Acephate	Orthene/Precise	1B	24	Check label for phytotoxicity information.
	Azadirachtin	Azatin/Ornazin/Molt-X	18B	4/12	Azatin may be used on greenhouse-grown vegetables.
	<i>Bacillus thuringiensis</i> var. <i>kurstaki</i>	Dipel	11B2	4	May be used on greenhouse-grown vegetables. Insects must consume material.
	<i>Beauveria bassiana</i>	Botanigard/Naturalis	M	4	Works best when tank mixed with other insecticides. Three to five applications may be needed.
	Bifenthrin	Attain/Talstar†	3	12	
	Chlorfenapyr	Pylon	13	12	Has translaminar-systemic activity. Do not make more than two applications in a sequence, or more than three times total per growing cycle. Check label for phytotoxicity information.

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	Chlorpyrifos + Cyfluthrin	Duraplex	1B + 3	24	Aerosol formulation.
	Cyfluthrin	Decathlon	3	12	
	Diflubenzuron	Adept	15	12	Prevents insects from molting. Can not be used on poinsettias, hibiscus, or Reiger begonia. Long residual activity.
	Fenpropathrin	Tame†	3	12	Has beet armyworm activity only.
	Fluvalinate	Mavrik	3	12	
	Novaluron	Pedestal	15	12	Do not make more than two applications per growing cycle. Do not apply to poinsettias.
	Permethrin	Astro	3	12	
	Pyridalyl	Overture	UN	12	Has translaminar activity. Do not make more than three applications per growing cycle. Apply when larvae are small and actively feeding.
	Spinosad	Conserve	5	4	
	Tebufenozide	Confirm	18A	4	Disrupts molting of caterpillars.
	Tolfenpyrad	Hachi-Hachi	21A	12	Works best on early instars.
Fungus Gnats (Adults)	Bifenthrin	Attain/Talstar†	3	12	
	Chlorpyrifos + Cyfluthrin	Duraplex	1B + 3	24	Aerosol formulation.
	Cyfluthrin	Decathlon	3	12	
	Paraffinic Oil	Sunspray Ultra-Fine Oil	UN	4	Short residual activity. Avoid applying at frequent intervals. See note 2.
	Permethrin	Astro	3	12	
Fungus Gnats (Larvae)	Azadirachtin	Azatin/Ornazin/Molt-X	18B	4/12	Azatin may be used on greenhouse-grown vegetables.
	<i>Bacillus thuringiensis</i> var. <i>israelensis</i>	Gnatrol	11A1	4	Slow-acting. May be used on greenhouse-grown vegetables.
	Chlorpyrifos	Duraguard	1B	24	Microencapsulated formulation.
	Chlorfenapyr	Pylon	13	12	Do not make more than two applications in a sequence, or more than three times total per growing cycle. Check label for phytotoxicity information.
	Cyromazine	Citation	17	12	Slow-acting.
	Diflubenzuron	Adept	15	12	Prevents insects from molting. Can not be used on poinsettias, hibiscus, or Reiger begonia. Long residual activity.
	Kinoprene	Enstar II	7A	4	Slow-acting.
	Phytoseiid mites		BLO	0	Certain species of these predatory mites are active in the soil. Check label for specific site requirements.
	Pyriproxyfen	Distance	7C	12	Read label for precautions when using on poinsettias.
	<i>Steinernema feltiae</i>	Nemasys//NemaShield/ Scanmask/Entoneem	BLO	0	Beneficial nematode that attacks fungus gnat larvae. Apply before fungus gnat populations are high. Compatible with many pesticides, but some products may reduce efficacy of nematodes.

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Leafminers	Abamectin	Avid	6	12	Active on larvae. Has translaminar-systemic activity.
	Acephate	Orthene/Precise	1B	24	Active on larvae. Has translaminar-systemic activity as a spray. Check label for phytotoxicity information.
	Azadirachtin	Azatin/Ornazin/Molt-X	18B	4/12	Active on larvae. May be used on greenhouse-grown vegetables.
	Bifenazate + Abamectin	Sirocco	25 + 6	12	Effective against boxwood leafminer.
	Cyromazine	Citation	17	12	Active on larvae.
	Novaluron	Pedestal	15	12	Suppression only. Do not apply to poinsettias.
	Permethrin	Astro	3	12	Active on adults.
	Spinosad	Conserve	5	4	Active on larvae. Has translaminar-systemic activity.
Mealybugs	Acephate	Orthene/Precise	1B	24	Has translaminar-systemic activity as a spray. Check label for phytotoxicity information.
	Acetamiprid	Tristar	4A	12	Has translaminar-systemic activity as a spray.
	<i>Beauveria bassiana</i>	Botanigard/Naturalis/ Mycotrol	M	4	Works best when tank mixed with other insecticides. Three to five applications may be needed.
	Bifenthrin	Attain/Talstar†	3	12	Works best on the crawler stages.
	Buprofezin	Talus	16	12	Works best on the crawler stages.
	Cyfluthrin	Decathlon	3	12	Works best on the crawler stages.
	Fenpropathrin	Tame†	3	24	Works best on the crawler stages.
	Fonicamid	Aria	9C	12	Has translaminar-systemic activity. Apply as a foliar or drench.
	Fluvalinate	Mavrik	3	12	Works best on the crawler stages.
	Imidacloprid	Marathon/Benefit/Mantra	4A	12	Slow-acting, long residual systemic insecticide.
	Insecticidal soap (potassium salts of fatty acids)	M-Pede	NS	12	Short residual activity. Thorough coverage of all plant parts is important. Avoid applying at frequent intervals.
	Kinoprene	Enstar II	7A	4	May be used as a drench for control of root mealybug.
	Neem oil (clarified hydrophobic extract of neem oil)	Triact Oil	HO	4	Short residual activity.
	Paraffinic oil	Sunspray Ultra-Fine Oil	HO	4	Short residual activity. Avoid applying at frequent intervals. See note 2.
	Spirotetramat	Kontos	23	24	Has translaminar-systemic activity. Apply as a foliar or drench.
Thiamethoxam	Flagship	4A	12	Systemic insecticide. Applied as a foliar or drench.	
Mites (Twospotted Spider)	Abamectin	Avid	6	12	Has translaminar-systemic activity.
	<i>Beauveria bassiana</i>	Botanigard/Naturalis/ Mycotrol	M	4	Three to five applications may be needed.
	Bifenazate	Floramite	25	4	Do not make more than two applications per crop per year. Is compatible with use of biological control organisms.
	Bifenazate + Abamectin	Sirocco	25 + 6	12	Do not make more than two applications per crop per year.

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	Bifenthrin	Attain/Talstar†	3	12	
	Chlorfenapyr	Pylon	13	12	Has translaminar-systemic activity. Do not make more than two applications in a sequence, or more than three times total per growing cycle. Check label for phytotoxicity information.
	Clofentezine	Ovation	10A	12	Works on mite eggs. Is compatible with use of biological control organisms.
	Etoxazole	TetraSan	10B	12	Works on mite eggs, larvae and nymphs. Do not apply more than two times per growing cycle.
	Fenbutatin-oxide	Vendex†	12B	48	Works best at temperatures above 70 F.
	Fenpropathrin	Tame†	3	24	
	Fenpyroximate	Akari	21	12	Do not rotate with Sanmite.
	Fluvalinate	Mavrik	3	12	
	Hexythiazox	Hexygon	10B	12	Works on mite eggs, larvae and nymphs.
	Insecticidal soap (potassium salts of fatty acids)	M-Pede	NS	4	Short residual activity. Thorough coverage of all plant parts is important. Avoid applying at frequent intervals.
	Neem oil (clarified hydrophobic extract of neem oil)	Triact Oil	HO	4	Short residual activity.
	Paraffinic oil	Sunspray Ultra-Fine Oil	HO	4	Short residual activity. Avoid applying at frequent intervals. See note 2.
	Phytoseiid mites		BLO	0	Widely used predatory mites of spider mites, including two-spotted spider mite. Check label for specific site requirements for each species.
	Pyridaben	Sanmite	21	12	Do not rotate with Akari.
	Spiromesifen	Judo	23	12	Has translaminar properties. Long residual activity.
	Spirotetramat	Kontos	23	24	Has translaminar-systemic activity. Apply as a foliar or drench.
Mites (Cyclamen)	Abamectin	Avid	6	12	Has translaminar-systemic activity.
	Bifenazate + Abamectin	Sirocco	25 + 6	12	Do not make more than two applications per crop per year.
	Chlorfenapyr	Pylon	13	12	Has translaminar-systemic activity. Do not make more than two applications in a sequence, or more than three times total per growing cycle. Check label for phytotoxicity information.
	Phytoseiid mites		BLO	0	Widely used predatory mites of mite pests. Check label for specific site requirements for each species.
Mites (Broad)	Abamectin	Avid	6	12	Has translaminar-systemic activity.
	Bifenazate + Abamectin	Sirocco	25 + 6	12	Do not make more than two applications per crop per year.
	Bifenthrin	Attain/Talstar†	3	12	
	Chlorfenapyr	Pylon	13	12	Has translaminar-systemic activity. Do not make more than two applications in a sequence, or more than three times total per growing cycle. Check label for phytotoxicity information.

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	Phytoseiid mites		BLO	0	Widely used predatory mites of mite pests. Check label for specific site requirements for each species.	
	Pyridaben	Sanmite	21	12		
Scales (Soft and Armored)	Acephate	Orthene/Precise	1B	24	Works best on the crawler stages. Check label for phytotoxicity information.	
	Bifenthrin	Attain/Talstar†	3	12	Works best on the crawler stages.	
	Buprofezin	Talus	16	12	Works best on the crawler stages.	
	Cyfluthrin	Decathlon	3	12	Works best on the crawler stages.	
	Imidacloprid	Marathon/Benefit/Mantra	4A	12	Only active on soft scales.	
	Insecticidal soap (potassium salts of fatty acids)	M-Pede	NS	12	Short residual activity. Thorough coverage of all plant parts is important. Avoid applying at frequent intervals.	
	Kinoprene	Enstar II	7A	4	Slow-acting. Only active on the crawler stages.	
	Neem oil (clarified hydrophobic extract of neem oil)	Triact Oil	HO	4	Short residual activity.	
	Paraffinic oil	Sunspray Ultra-Fine Oil	HO	4	Short residual activity. Avoid applying at frequent intervals. See note 2.	
	Pyriproxyfen	Distance	7C	12	Slow-acting. Only active on the crawler stages.	
	Tolfenpyrad	Hachi-Hachi	21A	12	Do not make more than two applicataions per crop cycle.	
	Slugs	Iron phosphate	Sluggo	UN	0	Bait formulation.
		Metaldehyde	Deadline	UN	12	Bait formulation.
Methiocarb		Mesurol	1A	24	Bait formulation.	
Thrips	Abamectin	Avid	6	12	Rotate with Conserve and Mesurol.	
	Acephate	Orthene	1B	24	Works best when tank mixed with Tame. Check label for phytotoxicity information.	
	Acetamiprid	Tristar	4A	12	Works best when tank mixed with a surfacant.	
	Azadirachtin	Azatin/Ornazin/Molt-X	18B	4/12	Works best when tank mixed with other insecticides.	
	<i>Beauveria bassiana</i>	Botanigard/Naturalis/Mycotrol	M	4	Works best when tank mixed with other insecticides. Three to five applications may be needed.	
	Bifenazate + Abamectin	Sirocco	25 + 6	12	Suppression only.	
	Bifenthrin	Attain/Talstar†	3	12		
	Chlorfenapyr	Pylon	13	12	Has translaminar-systemic activity. Effective against western flower thrips and chili thrips.	
	Cyfluthrin	Decathlon	3	12		
	Fenpropathrin	Tame†	3	24	Works best when tank mixed with acephate.	
	Flonicamid	Aria	9C	12	Has translaminar-systemic activity.	
	Fluvalinate	Mavrik	3	12		
	Kinoprene	Enstar II	7A	4	Slow-acting. Only active on the nymphal stages.	

<i>Pest</i>	<i>Pesticide Common Name</i>	<i>Pesticide Trade Name</i>	<i>Pesticide Class*</i>	<i>REI**</i>	<i>Comments</i>
	Novaluron	Pedestal	15	12	Only active on the nymphal stages. Do not apply to poinsettias.
	Methiocarb	Mesurool	1A	24	Rotate with Conserve and Avid.
	Paraffinic oil	Sunspray Ultra-Fine Oil	HO	4	Short residual activity. Avoid applying at frequent intervals. See note 2.
	Phytoseiid mites		BLO	0	Widely used predatory mites of thrips, including western flower thrips. Check label for specific site requirements for each species.
	Pyridalyl	Overture	UN	12	Has translaminar activity. Do not make more than three applications per growing cycle.
	Spinosad	Conserve	5	4	Avoid using at frequent intervals. Rotate with Mesurool and Avid.
	Tolfenpyrad	Hachi-Hachi	21A	12	Do not make more than two applications per growing cycle.
Whiteflies	Abamectin	Avid	6	12	Has translaminar-systemic activity.
	Acephate	Orthene/Precise	1B	24	Has translaminar-systemic as a spray. Works on nymphs and adults. Check label for phytotoxicity information.
	Acetamiprid	Tristar	4A	12	Has translaminar-systemic activity as a spray.
	Azadirachtin	Azatin/Ornazin/Molt-X	18B	4/12	Works best when tank mixed with other insecticides. Active on nymphs.
	<i>Beauveria bassiana</i>	Botanigard/Naturalis/Mycotrol	M	4	Works best when tank mixed with other insecticides. Active on nymphs and adults. Three to five applications may be needed.
	Bifenazate + Abamectin	Sirocco	25 + 6	12	Suppression only.
	Bifenthrin	Attain/Talstar†	3	12	Active on nymphs and adults.
	Buprofezin	Talus	16	12	Active on nymphs.
	Clothianidin	Celero	4A	12	Has translaminar-systemic activity. Apply as a foliar or drench.
	Cyfluthrin	Decathlon	3	12	Active on nymphs and adults.
	Dinotefuran	Safari	4A	12	Systemic insecticide with long residual activity. Highly water soluble.
	<i>Encarsia formosa</i>		BLO	0	Parasitic wasp of greenhouse whitefly.
	Fenpropathrin	Tame†	3	24	Active on nymphs and adults.
	Flonicamid	Aria	9C	12	Has translaminar-systemic activity. Apply as a foliar or drench.
	Fluvalinate	Mavrik	3	12	Active on nymphs and adults.
	Imidacloprid	Marathon/Benefit/Mantra	4A	12	Slow-acting, long residual systemic insecticide.
	Insecticidal soap (potassium salts of fatty acids)	M-Pede	NS	12	Short residual activity. Thorough coverage of all plant parts is important. Avoid applying at frequent intervals. Active on nymphs and adults.
	Kinoprene	Enstar II	7	4	Slow-acting. Only active on nymphs.
	Neem oil (clarified hydrophobic extract of neem oil)	Tract Oil	HO	4	Active on nymphs and adults.
	Novaluron	Pedestal	15	12	Active on nymphs. Do not apply to poinsettias.
	Paraffinic oil	Sunspray Ultra-Fine Oil	HO	4	Active on eggs, pupae, nymphs, and adults. Avoid applying at frequent intervals. See note 2.

<i>Pest</i>	<i>Pesticide Common Name</i>	<i>Pesticide Trade Name</i>	<i>Pesticide Class*</i>	<i>REI**</i>	<i>Comments</i>
	Permethrin	Astro	3	12	Active on nymphs and adults.
	Pymetrozine	Endeavor	9B	12	Has systemic activity. Works on nymphs and adults. Prevents insects from feeding by blocking mouthparts.
	Pyridaben	Sanmite	21	12	Works on nymphs and adults.
	Pyriproxyfen	Distance	7C	12	Only works on nymphs.
	Spirotetramat	Kontos	23	24	Has translaminar-systemic activity. Apply as a foliar or drench.
	Thiamethoxam	Flagship	4A	12	Systemic insecticide. Applied as a foliar or drench.
	Tolfenpyrad	Hachi-Hachi	21A	12	Do not make more than two applications per crop cycle.

† Restricted Use Pesticide

** REI = Restricted Entry Interval (in hours); workers not allowed to enter into treated area until the REI has elapsed.

* The numbers associated with the pesticide class column were developed by the Insecticide Resistance Action Committee, (IRAC) in 2005. It is intended to help in the selection of insecticides for preventative resistance management. If you make multiple applications for a specific pest or group of pests during a growing sequence, simply select a registered insecticide with a different number for each generation (14 to 21 days). You can rotate within the same number if more than one subgroup is available (Example: 2A and 2B). To further delay resistance from developing, integrate other control methods into your pest management programs.

1A=Carbamate	12A=Diaphenhiuron
1B=Organophosphate	12B=Organotin miticide
2A=Cyclodiene organochlorine	12C=Propargite
2B=Phenylpyrazole	13=Chlorfenapyr, DNOC
3=Pyrethroid	14=
4A=Neonicotinoid	15=Benzoyleureas
4B=Nicotine	16=Buprofezin
5=Spinosyns	17=Cyromazine
6=Avermectins	18A=Diacylhydrazine
7A=Juvenile hormone analogues	18B=Azadirachtin
7B=Fenoxycarb	19=Amitraz
7C=Pyriproxyfen	20A=Hydramethylnon
8A=Methyl bromide (fumigant)	20B=Acequinocyl
8B=Aluminum phosphide (fumigant)	20C=Fluacrypyrim
8C=Sulfuryl fluoride (fumigant)	21=METI acaricides, Rotenone
9A=Cryolite	22=Indoxacarb
9B=Pymetrozine	23=Tetronic acid derivatives
9C=Flonicamid	24A=Aluminum phosphide
10A=Clofentezine	24B=Cyanide
10B=Hexythiazox	24C=Phosphine
11A1=Bt var. israelensis	25=Bifenazate
11A2=Bt. var. sphaericus	26=Fluroacetate
11B1=Bt. var. aizawai	27A=P450 monooxygenase inhibitors
11B2=Bt. var. kurstaki	27B=Esterase inhibitors
11C=Bt. var. tenebrionensis	28=Anthranilic diamides
BLO=Biological Organism	NS=Non-specific, multi-site
M=Microbial	UN=Unknown MOA
HO=Horticultural Oil	

NOTES:

1. Before purchasing and using any pesticide, read the label carefully for registered use(s), rates, and application frequency. Also note toxicity category on the label of each pesticide since toxicity ratings may affect reentry intervals and note any ventilation requirements. Wear protective clothing as recommended on each pesticide label.
2. When using horticultural oils it is important to not use oils with insecticidal soap or any sulfur containing compounds. Also, do not use horticultural oils in sprayers in which fungicides have been used. Frequent agitation is required when using horticultural oil sprays.
3. Insecticides having a broad spectrum of activity (e.g., pyrethroids, organophosphates, carbamates, neonicotinoids), may not be compatible with biological control because they can harm some natural enemies. Some broad-spectrum insecticides are more selective than others, and selectivity further depends on how, when, and where the insecticide is applied. Be sure to check the label for the kinds of insects controlled by the product, or contact your county extension educator for information on compatibility with biological control.

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