

August 31, 2021

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Mums

By: Stanton Gill

Now is the time to be applying materials to control caterpillars on fall mums. In late August, we see lots of activity of moths laying eggs on mum crops. Spinosad works well in controlling caterpillars. For the last two years we have been conducting a trial using of Mainspring for caterpillar control, and it has been working well at 4 - 8 oz/100 gallon rate.

Thrips activity this season has been generally down in numbers on mums. The frequent showers are keeping their populations in check with activity of naturally occurring entomopathogenic fungi. As the mums come into flower, stay vigilant for thrips activity. If the weathers switches to hot and dry, expect thrips' populations to shoot up.

Chrysanthemum aphids were active in early August, but populations have generally dropped off. We have several good materials for mum aphid build-up. Stylet blocking insecticides such as Aria and Endeavor work well on aphids. Some grower are using soil drenches of dinotefuran with good results.



Caterpillars can cause significant damage to mums



Yellow striped armyworm caterpillars are one of the species that can be found feeding on mums



This mum has a heavy infestation of melon aphids

Dahlias and Corn Borer Activity

By: Stanton Gill

Dahlias really take off as we move into cooler weather in September and October. We have had several samples, via emails, on borers in dahlia stems. It is the corn borer in most cases that is boring into the stems. Spinosad applied as preventative is a good control material.

We will continue to see corn borer adult egg laying in late August through early September. You can obtain pheromone traps from companies such as Trece to monitor for adult activity on your area. If you pick up the males in the trap then females will be mating and laying eggs shortly afterwards. Apply Spinosad or Bt product with a spreader sticker to help it adhere to the stems.



Damage from a corn borer on a dahlia (left) and a corn borer larva found inside a mum stem (right)



Another caterpillar to look for on dahlias is a leafroller. It produces silk that it uses to wrap itself up in the leaves for protection.

Fall Pansies

By: Stanton Gill

Many people started pansies in August for fall sales. August has been extremely hot and humid. If you moved plants outdoors, they will show stress symptoms. The downpours and the high humidity is causing a lot of spotting on foliage. Plants received by the Plant Diagnostic Lab are showing physiological problems, especially pansies growing in outdoor facilities. The cool weather that is coming should help plants start to recoup. Hopefully, September will be cooler and better for pansy growth.

Conferences

Diagnostic Sessions

We will be holding one more plant diagnostic session for nutrient problems, diseases, and insects on **September 22nd** at the Central Maryland Research and Education Center (11975 Homewood Road, Ellicott City, MD 21042) from 12:30 – 3:30 p.m. We encourage participants to bring samples of nutrient disorders and insect, including natural enemies, and disease problems for diagnosis by David Clement, Karen Rane, Stanton Gill, Paula Shrewsbury, and Andrew Ristvey, University of Maryland Extension.

Cut Flower Tour

September 14, 2021

Locations: Castlebridge Cut Flower Farm, Ellicott City, and Rolling Ridge Horse and Cut Flower Farm, Laytonsville, MD

[For more information and to register](#)



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