

Teaching Greenhouse Spring Semester Plant Production Policy to Minimize Pests

Approved by Faculty on December 9, 2016

Amended by Teaching Greenhouse Committee on February 8, 2017

The teaching greenhouse committee (TGHC) would like all users of the teaching greenhouses to follow the following policy (especially during Spring semesters) to help minimize pest outbreaks.

1. For the Student Horticulture Association Plant Sale and the Garden Plant Sale, annual plants shall not come into the greenhouse prior to February 1st. Non-annual plant material is also encourage to arrive after February 1st.
2. All live plant material that is brought into the greenhouses (for plant sales or classes) shall be placed immediately into the quarantine greenhouse (C109 off the conservatory). If C109 is unavailable, contact greenhouse staff for substitute/temporary location to quarantine new plants.
 - a. The owner of the plant material shall contact the pesticide coordinator [Lance Forsberg; ljf@msu.edu or 517-930-4826 (his cell phone – call or text)]. *E-mail is the preferred method for contacting Lance, so that you can cc: Dan Bulkowski (bulkows1@msu.edu) who can help coordinate plant movement and pest treatments.*
 - b. Lance will then evaluate and treat the material (if necessary) as soon as possible (preferably within 24 hours so as to avoid quarantine area overflow). Lance will notify the owner when it is appropriate to move the plants to a production greenhouse.
 - c. Plant material that is coming from the Horticulture Teaching and Research Center (a.k.a. – the hort farm) may be scouted, quarantined, and treated (if necessary) at the farm. Once it has been cleared by Lance, that plant material may then move directly into the production greenhouses.
3. Discourage (but not prohibit) the use of the following plants due to the following pests:

Whitefly	Thrips	Powdery Mildew	Aphids
Perennial Salvia (anything in the mint family, including bee balm). Exception: annual salvia is acceptable.	<i>Lupine</i>	Roses	Peppers
Hibiscus	Hollyhock		
Tobacco (annual <i>Nicotiana</i> is acceptable)	<i>Osteospermum</i>		
Tomatoes/Potatoes (anything in the Solanaceae family)			
Herbs of any kind			
<i>Buddleia</i>			

4. Reporting Pest Issues
As crop owners monitor their crop, they may notice pest issues that need attention. In an effort to formalize the communication process between crop owners and the pesticide coordinator, fill out and leave the Pesticide Application Request Form located on the wall between B105 and B107 in the headhouse. This box will be checked several times a week, but in order to speed up the process, feel free to contact Lance and cc: Dan (contact methods above in 2a) to coordinate a pesticide application.

To view what scouting activities have occurred on your crop by the pesticide coordinator, check the scouting log (available in the green 3-ring binder on the wall between B105 and B107). To view what treatments have been applied to your crop, check the pesticide application log (available at the same location). These two logs together serve as data to aid greenhouse staff and pesticide coordinator identify pest problems that occur regularly and what actions did or did not work in order to improve future pest control efforts.