

Eastern Region Nursery and Greenhouse Program
Danny Lauderdale, Area Specialized Agent



Eastern NC Nursery & Greenhouse News March 2020

Find the latest information about nursery production in Eastern NC below!

Visit Danny's Website

NCDA&CS and Governor declare Nursery & Greenhouse, and Landscape Essential

Documentation from NCDA&CS including letter to Law Enforcement and Work Authorization Form can be found at:

[NC Department of Department of Agriculture COVID-19 page](#)

Governors Stay at Home Order with Essential Businesses:

(Nursery & Greenhouse can fit under agriculture, suppliers of critical industries, and businesses that meet social distancing standards)

[Governor Stay at Home Order](#)

Keep in mind that the Governor's order does allow more strict orders from local county and municipalities, so check local restrictions, educate yourself and others where necessary, and keep good relationships with local leaders.

I suggest keeping copies of licenses or certificates that help show you and/or employees are part of agriculture and professional like pesticide licenses and nursery certificate. Let me know if I can assist or answer questions.

First European Pepper Moth Trapping of 2020



Last week the first European Pepper Moth male adults were captured in pheromone traps in a few greenhouses in Eastern NC. Based on my trapping in 2019 these pests are widespread in Eastern NC and can be easily found damaging loropetalum, abelia, and Sunshine ligustrum to name just a few of the many plants they can feed on. More information about this pest can be found at:

[EPM UF](#)

Although the insect is not supposed to overwinter outdoors here, it can survive in overwintering structures and propagation houses. We have yet to confirm whether or not any are overwintering outdoors here, but once temperatures get hot and plants are moved from overwintering structures or propagation houses outdoors, the population does explode during the growing season. The link above lists some products that may help with management. Contact products listed probably need to be applied as

a drench since the caterpillars that are doing the feeding damage often hide in leaf litter and upper substrate. Aerosols or foggers may be useful in greenhouses as well. Dr. JC Chong at Clemson had great results with Acelepryn and Mainspring applications in trials last year as well.

If you are interested in trapping and monitoring this pest or looking for management options let me know. I have trapping supplies available.

Red Headed Flea Beetle Update, Check for Larvae



We have reached 400 GDD based on 50 degrees fahrenheit as the base temperature in all locations in eastern NC. This should mean that larvae have hatched from overwintering eggs in most locations. Here are a few examples as of Monday, March 30.

Elizabeth City : 403
Raleigh: 405
Tarboro: 451
Greenville: 467
Rocky Mount/Wilson: 479
Fayetteville: 514
Wilmington: 614

It is possible that the Southeastern (Wilmington) area of NC could see adults in April this year and insects could already be pupae at this point.

If you have not scouted for larvae now is a great time to see if they are active in root systems. Check out this [video on scouting](#). Scout on warm days within 30 minutes to 1 hour of irrigation by pulling plants out and looking at edges of root balls for larvae. If systemic products were not applied earlier before egg hatch then contact drenches can be done now to take out many of the first generation before they pupate to become adults. Don't treat without scouting. Acephate at 12 ounces per 100 gallons of water has provided 92-100% control in my research trials when 1st generation larvae are active. Steinernema carpocapsae (Millenium--beneficial nematodes) at 250 million per 100 gallons, gave 98% and 100% control in two different studies), Isaria fumosorosea (Ancora--microbial insecticide) at 28 oz. per 100 gallons, gave 94% control in one study.

New plants potted this spring will benefit from granular imidacloprid applications incorporated in substrate or topdressed after potting based on my observations the past few years. I have trials and demonstrations related to this at a couple of nurseries where I will be taking foliar damage data and making observations once adults emerge. Drenches of other nursery labeled neonicotinoids like dinotefuran and thiamethoxam will provide foliar protection also but depending on product and timing, they may not last as long as a granular application. Keep in mind that when these applications (including imidacloprid) are done after egg hatch and adult emergence that the adults have to feed on foliage to ingest but are typically quickly killed. Expect some slight early damage with these treatments but summer and fall foliage should be protected depending on application timing and whether or not repeat applications are made. Based on my experience and observations a single drench application of a neonicotinoid will not result in protection of foliage for an entire growing season. Granular products seem better at providing longer protection.

Ambrosia Beetles and Yellow Poplar Weevil



The last few weeks **granulate ambrosia beetle** (damage to left) activity was sporadic due to high temperatures varying below and above 70 degrees. We might see a slight dip in activity this week in most areas due to cooler temperatures starting on Tuesday through Friday, but consistent 70 degrees starting again this weekend will mean their flights will be in full force.

Don't forget to check swelling leaf buds and new expanding leaves of magnolias and poplars for **yellow poplar weevil** this spring. Lots of damage was seen throughout eastern NC last year. Here are a few links that might be useful:



Yellow poplar weevil damage.

<https://entomology.ca.uky.edu/ef414>

<http://enpp.auburn.edu/outreach/web-publications/yellow-poplar-leaf-mining-weevil/>

<https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/yellow-poplar-weevil>

Pesticide disclaimer: Recommendations for the use of agricultural chemicals are included in this publication as a convenience to the reader. The use of brand names and any mention or listing of commercial products or services in this publication does not imply endorsement by NC Cooperative Extension nor discrimination against similar products or services not mentioned.

Distributed in furtherance of the acts of Congress of May 8 and June 30, 1914. North Carolina State University and North Carolina A&T State University commit themselves to positive action to secure equal opportunity regardless of race, color, creed, national origin, religion, sex, age, veteran status, or disability. In addition, the two Universities welcome all persons without regard to sexual orientation. North Carolina State University, North Carolina A&T State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and local governments cooperating.

The Eastern Region Nursery and Greenhouse Program at NC Cooperative Extension is your source for research-based production information for greenhouse and nursery crops in Eastern North Carolina.

Danny Lauderdale | Area Specialized Agent| 252-714-0274 | danny_lauderdale@ncsu.edu
<https://wilson.ces.ncsu.edu/profile/danny-lauderdale/>

STAY CONNECTED:

