

Eastern Region Nursery and Greenhouse Program
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Eastern NC Nursery News May 2020

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

Visit Danny's Website

Two Spotted Spider Mites

I suspect that just prior to this rain event, two spotted spider mites should have been showing up due to the warm, dry weather. So while they may be setback by this week of wet weather, they will develop rapidly when we get back consistently to 80 degree temperatures so be on the lookout.

More information on two spotted spider mites can be found at:
<https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/twospotted-spider-mite-2>

Control information can be found in the [NC Agricultural Chemicals Manual](#).

Red Headed Flea Beetle Update

We have reached at least 800 GDD based on 50 degrees fahrenheit as the base temperature in all locations of eastern NC. This should mean that the insects are first generation adults or are very close to first generation adults. Here are a few examples of GDD for Tuesday, May 19:

Elizabeth City : 803
Raleigh: 855
Tarboro: 929

Greenville: 953
Rocky Mount/Wilson: 985
Fayetteville: 1113
Wilmington: 1239

I know of or have seen red headed flea beetle adults in Fayetteville, Wilmington, and Tarboro. Actually any area of eastern NC could have adults by now, particularly if plants were overwintered in houses. I have begun to see adults this year when locations reach approximately 900-960 GDD for plants overwintered outdoors. I suspect they are already out in the Wilson area but have not looked for them and I expect to find adults later this week in the Greenville area.



RHFB adult and forsythia damage.

You can find links to red headed flea beetle resource articles and information on my website at:

<https://wilson.ces.ncsu.edu/nursery-and-greenhouse-program-eastern-region/>

One link I do not have on that site is the red headed flea beetle foliar trial information from the IR-4 program. The link to that is below:

<http://ir4.rutgers.edu/EHC/RegSupport/ResearchSummary/ColeopteranEfficacy2019.pdf>

Red headed flea beetle information is on pages 40-55. It is not all inclusive but does provide some good information.

If you have not been scouting, now is the time to start. If you have questions about your management program for this insect please reach out. My research trials with treatments targeting larvae this year will be evaluated by rating foliar damage. I expect to rate foliar damage in June.

Potato Leaf Hoppers on Maples



Potato leaf hopper.

Potato leaf hoppers have been trapped across eastern NC from southern counties to central eastern NC counties. Higher numbers are farther south at present but I expect damaging numbers to be detected in central eastern NC at any time now. Like with red headed flea beetles, although we expected higher numbers by now, the cooler spring temperatures we have been enjoying has delayed them slightly from their timeline over the past few years. They are easy to detect by placing yellow sticky cards at the top of maple canopies.

See this [potato leaf hopper article](#) from Dr. Steve Frank for more information.

Also for many tree and shrub insect pests check out the [Southern Nursery Integrated Pest Management Resources for Growers Page](#).

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.

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