



Article #3 in a series brought to you through the efforts of the Palm Beach County Whitefly Task Force

Task Force Website: <http://www.pbcgov.com/coextension/horticulture/whitefly/>
Whitefly Blog Archives: <http://palmbeachcountyextension.wordpress.com/category/whitefly/>

*Laura Sanagorski, Environmental Horticulture Extension Agent
Bill Schall, Commercial Horticulture Extension Agent
Palm Beach County Whitefly Task Force*

WORKING WITH NATURAL ENEMIES

There are reasons why only a few of the 75 whitefly species found in Florida are causing problems; one important reason is that they are attacked by many other organisms. At least five very small beetles, various other arthropods and two parasitoid wasps attack the ficus whitefly; at least two wasp parasitoids and a number of beetles attack the rugose spiraling whitefly. The same is also true for the silverleaf whitefly. These beneficial organisms do not completely control whiteflies, but can keep numbers down to an acceptable level. Improper use of pesticides can harm beneficial insects and makes controlling whiteflies more difficult. Our recommendation for reducing harm to beneficial insects is to use insecticides applied directly to the soil or trunk, and use different and less harmful insecticides if treating the leaves.

Additionally, commercially available predators and insect diseases are being developed for whitefly control. These newer options include the predatory Swirskii mite, and certain fungi that can kill whiteflies. The insect-destroying fungi work most effectively during the warm and moist times of the year. However, it is important to choose the appropriate natural enemy or disease for the particular whitefly because not all natural enemies and diseases work on all whiteflies.

Remember, the label is the law; be sure to use products only in a manner consistent with the manufacturer directions on the labels.

Please use pesticides safely.

The use of trade names in any publication is solely for the purpose of providing information. Palm Beach County Extension does not guarantee or warranty the products named, and reference to them in this publication does not signify our approval to the exclusion of other products of suitable composition.

The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) is an Equal Opportunity Institution authorized to provide research, educational information, and other services only to individuals and institutions that function without discrimination with respect to race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, political opinions or affiliations, genetic information and veteran status as protected under the Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act., U.S. Department of Agriculture, Cooperative Extension Service, University of Florida, IFAS, Florida A&M University Cooperative Extension Program, and Boards of County Commissioners Cooperating. In accordance with the provisions of ADA, this document may be requested in a different format.