

Chilli Thrips Videoconference Training Summary

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Approximately 45 participants at 15 locations attended the Chilli thrips, *Scirtothrips dorsalis* training session on December 13, 2006. Two out-of-state locations, Texas and Louisiana, were accommodated. Attendees consisted of 13 county extension agents, 1 Master Gardener, 6 industry personnel, 4 FDACS-DPI employees, 2 USDA-APHIS-PPQ employees, two out-of-state extension specialists, and 17 general UF/IFAS faculty or staff employees. Industry groups represented included A&L Labs, Six L's, Syngenta, and Yoder Brothers.

Eight anonymous Training Evaluation Surveys were returned. Some variability in responses to questions per individual survey occurred. Overall, responses concerning workshop design and logistics were extremely favorable (Table 1). All of these responses were in the good to very good range. The majority of responses for instructors and the overall rating for the in-service were rated as very good (Table 2). Of the five respondents for the value of research summaries on the topic, the majority (four) listed this information as very useful. As a result of participating in this program, most respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that 1) they will have opportunities to use this information in their county (86%-n=7) and 2) they are committed to using the information from this training in their program (82%-n=7). When participants were asked to what degree the workshop would increase their competency (knowledge, skills, or attitudes) most respondents indicated that it had either improved their competency some or a lot (Table 3). Individual free response comments and suggestions provided on survey evaluations follow summary tables.

Table 1: Workshop Design and Logistics

| Topic | Percentage Response ¹ |
|---|----------------------------------|
| Organization of the Training (n=8) | 100 |
| The Length of Training (n=8) | 98 |
| Plan for Follow-Up after the Training (n=6) | 90 |
| Relevance to My Extension Program (n=7) | 88 |
| Location (n=8) | 100 |

¹ Percentage response based on a 1-5 rating system. Ratings are 1 (Very Poor-20%), 2 (Poor-40%), 3 (Average-60%), 4 (Good-80%), and 5 (Very Good-100%). Variable numbers of responses were received for each category. Some variability occurs due to a not applicable category marked by participants.

Table 2: Rating of Instruction and In-Service

| Topic | Percentage Response ¹ |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Instruction-Joe Funderburk (n=8) | 98 |
| Instruction-Lance Osborne (n=8) | 98 |
| Instruction-Dak Seal (n=8) | 96 |
| Overall Rating for In-Service (n=7) | 98 |

¹ Percentage response based on a 1-5 rating system. Ratings are 1 (Very Poor-20%), 2 (Poor-40%), 3 (Average-60%), 4 (Good-80%), and 5 (Very Good-100%). Variable

numbers of responses were received for each category. Some variability occurs due to a not applicable category marked by participants.

Table 3: Level of Increase in Competency Level by Participants

| Topic | Percentage Response¹ |
|---|--|
| Mastery of the Training Information (n=7) | 83 |
| Ability to Teach Client's on this Topic (n=7) | 83 |
| Use of Workshop Activities in my own Teaching (n=7) | 75 |
| Design and Lead a Workshop on this Topic (n=5) ² | 75 |
| Collaborate with Local Organization (n=7) | 90 |
| Address Emerging Issues in this Area (n=7) | 83 |

¹ Percentage response based on a 1-4 rating system. Ratings are 1 (Not at all-25%), 2 (A little-50%), 3 (Some-75%), and 4 (A lot 100%).

²Two respondents in this category listed Not sure. These values were not included in the rating system.

Comments

Question 1: As a result of participating in this program, please tell us what you plan to use in your county?

- I will share information with homeowners so they will know what else may be damaging their roses. However, is this a threat or just another pest to be aware of?
- Great workshop. Model other states need to use to train agents, clients, and entomologists within the University system and department of agriculture. Even if Chilli thrips do not become an established pest, this was a great training on thrips in general. Once again Lance Osborne is on the cutting edge of ornamental pest issues.
- Keep growers abreast of information on id and management of chilli thrips.
- Very good, should be a good segway for your extensive training you have planned.

Question 2: Please tell us what changes can be made to improve the in-service training:

- This was nicely done, perhaps video (VHS, DVD) media of presentation can be provided to county offices with agent certification that program has been viewed as part of evaluation.
- None
- None-good program-I was aware of much of this information as I have been following the subject since 2004 but it is always good to make sure that you are not missing anything.

Question 3: Please tell us what topics should be included in future training programs:

- Nematode control for homeowners; how to properly examine root/root balls of plants exhibiting above ground symptoms not related to PH, insects, pests, or inadequate fertilization practices.

- As mentioned in the training, a more in-depth training on thrips identification would be valuable.
- More management information as it becomes available.