Scouting involves walking through the crop(s), checking colored sticky cards, picking up plants, looking underneath leaves, checking plant stems, and examining plant roots. Thus avoiding extensive outbreaks.
Scouting

- Commitment
- “Good” eyes
- Trained staff
- Magnifying lens (10-16X)
- Potatoes (for fungus gnat larvae)
- Colored sticky cards (yellow and/or blue)
- Pheromone traps*

- Clipboard and writing utensil (pen or pencil)
- Data collection sheets
- Stakes and clothes pins/ clips
- Colored flags or flagging tape
- Map of greenhouse or nursery
- Computer

- Marking pens
- Waterproof marker
- Saran wrap
- Portable handheld computer
- Magnifying apparatus

- Can reduce the use of insecticides and miticides thus minimizing “selection pressure” placed on insect and mite pest populations, which avoids the potential for resistance and preserves existing products.
- Determine the effectiveness of pest management program.
- Assess insect and mite pest population dynamics and trends throughout the growing season. This will avoid insect and mite pest outbreaks from occurring.

Yellow-Colored Sticky Card

Blue-Colored Sticky Card
Scouting For Fungus Gnat Adults: Place Yellow Sticky Cards Horizontally On Surface

Scouting For Fungus Gnat Larvae: Potato Disks/Wedges or “Sticks”

• Position colored sticky cards every 500 to 1,000 square feet. However, this depends on the crop and insect pest complex.
• Time spent scouting may vary (e.g. 30 seconds per plant or 20 plants per 100 square feet).
• Focus efforts on those crops that are “highly” susceptible to insect and mite pests. Adjust scouting technique based on the specific insect and/or mite pest.

Concentrate Scouting Efforts On Areas Such As Near Doorways, Vents, Sidewalls, And Cooling Pads. These Are Sites That Insects Will Use To Enter Greenhouses and Nurseries From Outdoors. Also, Concentrate On the Perimeter Of The Crop.

Western Flower Thrips Adults
Scouting Shore Fly Adult

Scouting Leafminer Adults

Scouting Whitefly Adult

Use One-Side of Colored Sticky Card

These Are Examples Of Not Scouting!

Placement Of Sticky Cards Is Important

Adjust Sticky Cards As Plants Grow
Scouting

Remember, not only will yellow sticky cards capture flying insect pests but they will also capture biological control agents including parasitoids and predators.

Scouting

Visual Inspection

Mealybug

Twospotted Spider Mite

Scouting

* All Employees: Scouts when watering. 🌿 *

* Devote one employee to just scouting or hire a professional consultant. 🐛

Scouting

Identify those plants highly susceptible to insect and mite pests.
Can You Implement An Efficient and Reliable Scouting Program?
Yes You Can!

Publications


Summary

- Scouting is an effective way to detect insect and mite pest populations early and evaluate the effectiveness of pest management strategies such as the use of pesticides or biological control agents or natural enemies.
- Scouting provides valuable information so that applications are conducted at the appropriate time, based on the vulnerable life stages of the insect and/or mite pest.
- Scouting may be “economical” in terms of reducing the number of applications needed thus decreasing the potential for insect and/or mite pest populations developing resistance.

Thank You For Your Attention!