



Development of Training Resources for Pest and Beneficial Identification for the Nursery and Landscape

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Nature of the Work:

Many common insect and mite pests and beneficial species can impact ornamental plant production. While the first step in successful pest management is proper diagnosis, few practical (and portable!) identification tools are available to help determine which pest and beneficial insects are present when potential problems are located when scouting.

Our lab is working to make identification guides to both pests and beneficials more readily accessible in several formats, both printed and electronic. In the past few months, several projects have been implemented towards that goal.

Results and Discussion:

Identification guides on the world-wide web for those with computer access:

Visit our web page at <http://www.griffin.peachnet.edu/caes/lpmhome/> where we have completed illustration of more than 25 beneficial predators, parasites and pathogens that may be encountered in the nursery and landscape and 24 pest insects and mites. This web site is designed to help the user tell pests from beneficials and to become more familiar with common groups and their management.

Identification guides for specific pest problems:

Field identification guides such as the scale insect identification key that Greg Hodges has constructed are currently in development. This full color flyer is designed to assist you in diagnosing one of the most problematic groups of insects affecting woody ornamental plants. By following the characters illustrated, a scale infestation can be identified to the appropriate family. This helps in deciding what control strategy is most appropriate. This illustrated key has been field tested and reviewed and will be printed this spring.

Identification guides for easier on-site diagnosis :

A dashboard size color identification guide is also currently in draft form that includes 24 pest species. Designed to be handy and accessible, this guide can travel with you for on-the-spot diagnosis of problems found in the nursery. Information on identification, damaging stages and type of plant injury is included. Timing of occurrence and control strategies are also included. Specific insecticide recommendations are not included because these change rapidly and require frequent updating. This guide will also be available in Spring 2001.

Industry evaluation and comments on all these formats was requested at the CANR Open House in October and input incorporated into revised publications.

Significance to Industry:

Better access to information that allows improved diagnosis of pest problems was the goal of this project. Electronic access has become the preferred format of many, but is not always practical for field i.d. purposes, therefore we have sought to provide color enhanced identification aides in a variety of useful formats for the nursery industry. For additional information on availability of materials, please contact Kris Braman: 770-228-7236, kbraman@gaes.griffin.peachnet.edu
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