



# Redheaded Flea Beetle Education

*In-person presentations, fact sheets and recommendations inform growers on increasing problems from this native insect*

## ISSUE

In the past **8** years redheaded flea beetles have become a critical nursery pest.



The Mid-Atlantic sees at least two generations of beetles per year from May until mid-November.



Adult beetles cause substantial chewing damage to foliage, leading to unsalable crops.



Nursery operators need tactics of managing this beetle that incorporates IPM practices.

## RESPONSE



Ornamentals IPM specialist visited several states during the past year to share research results.



Fact sheets and recommendations were distributed nationally through ornamental newsletters and websites.

### Discussion of issues:

- ◆ Insect phenology
- ◆ Host plant preferences
- ◆ Biological control or biopesticide opportunities
- ◆ Insecticide efficacy trials targeting flea beetles
- ◆ Trap crop opportunities
- ◆ Preliminary trials examining the nutritional quality of hosts

## IMPACT



**72%** of nursery operators learned how to scout for larva stages.



**60%** of attendees increased their knowledge of management tactics.



**95%** of professionals learned new information about the redheaded flea beetle.



**50%** of attendees learned twice as much as they knew prior to attending.



**74%** are likely to start using insecticide drenches or granular products in soil media as part of their management strategy.