

Redheaded Flea Beetle Education

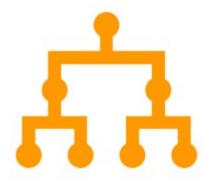
In-person presentations, fact sheets and recommendations inform growers on increasing problems from this native insect



In the past



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



60%

of attendees increased their knowledge of management tactics.



of nursery operators learned how to scout for larva stages.



95%

of professionals learned new information about the redheaded flea beetle.



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.