

Mini data sheet on *Thrips imaginis*

Added in 2000 - Deleted in 2004

Reasons for deletion:

Thrips imaginis has been included in EPPO Alert List for more than 3 years and during this period no particular international action was requested by the EPPO member countries. In 2004, it was therefore considered that sufficient alert has been given and the pest was deleted from the Alert List.

Thrips imaginis (Thysanoptera: Thripidae) - Plague thrips

Why	The NPPO of UK suggested that <i>Thrips imaginis</i> could be added to the EPPO Alert List. It has been intercepted by UK on cut flowers (<i>Grevillea</i>) imported from Australia.
Where	Oceania: Australia (all states), Fiji, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and some Pacific islands.
On which plants	Polyphagous pest. Its wide host range includes ornamentals (e.g. <i>Dianthus</i> , <i>Gerbera</i> , <i>Rosa</i> , <i>Tagetes</i>), fruit crops (apple, pear, citrus, peach, plum, strawberry, <i>Rubus</i> , grapevine), field crops (e.g. lucerne, cotton), pastures and grasses.
Damage	<i>T. imaginis</i> feeds mainly on flowers but also on young foliage by rasping the plant tissue and sucking cell contents. Adult females damage the plant tissue when depositing their eggs. When thrips feed on flowers, the anthers, petals and pistil turn brown and shrivel, then fall prematurely. This prevents fruit set in fruit crops or decrease the plant value in floral crops. In Australia, <i>T. imaginis</i> is considered as a pest of apple orchards as it damages apple flowers leading to crop losses. In New Zealand, populations do not reach sufficient numbers to cause economic problems. <i>T. imaginis</i> is not a vector of <i>Tomato spotted wilt tospovirus</i> .
Dissemination	Adult thrips can fly over limited distances but are carried by the wind. As <i>T. imaginis</i> overwinters in the soil (pre-pupal and pupal stages), it can be disseminated by infested soil. Movement of infected plants or plant parts can disseminate this pest.
Pathway	Plants for planting, cut flowers, soil from countries where <i>T. imaginis</i> occurs.
Possible risks	In climate-matching studies done in UK, it appears unlikely that <i>T. imaginis</i> could survive outdoors in Northern Europe, but could do so in southern Europe (the example taken was Barcelona, Spain). There are no records of <i>T. imaginis</i> on glasshouse crops, but it might be able to survive under these conditions in the EPPO region. Many of its host plants are widely grown and of economic importance in the EPPO region. Chemical control can be used but thrips are generally not easily eliminated (no data on biological control).
Source(s)	NPPO of UK 2000-01, Summary PRA by Dr A. MacLeod. Hely, P.C.; Pasfield, G.; Gellatley, J.G. (eds) (1982) Insect pests of fruit and vegetables in NSW, Department of Agriculture New South Wales, Inkata Press, Melbourne, Sidney and London, 312 pp. Palmer, J.M.; Mound, L.A.; du Haume, G.J. (1989) CIE Guide to insects of importance to man. 2. Thysanoptera edited by C.R. Betts. CABI, Wallingford, UK, 73 pp. INTERNET Plague thrips. http://www.space.net.au/~grnlife/gsplaguethrip.htm
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