



Out And About In Southwestern Ontario

Tomatoes:

- A long season crop needs protection of the root zone from pests. Introduction of *Atheta* and *Hypoaspis* is a cost effective solution. Speak to your Pest Management Rep for rates that will be effective for your farm. If you require a curative solution for fungus gnats, there is also Bt. and nematode drenches available as backup (but application will need to be block by block).



Atheta



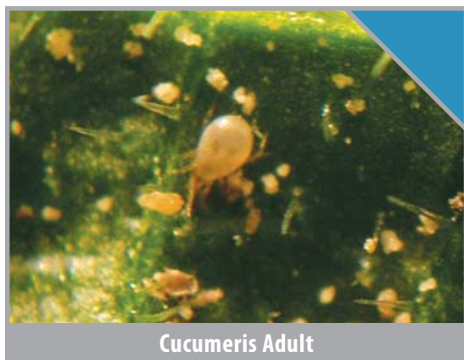
Hypoaspis Adult (Biobest)



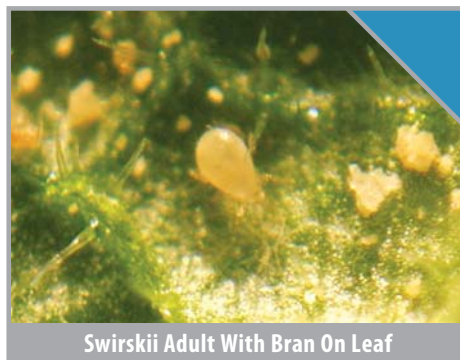
Fungus Gnat Larvae

Cucumbers:

- A very small population of loopers has been detected; no actions have had to be planned.
- Early season thrips are low so far. The introduction of *Swirskii* early in the crop will give you the best results. Note that a high population of thrips is very difficult to correct: think sticky, sticky, sticky and get your yellow or blue tape and traps up asap. *Swirskii* will be slower to increase than in the summer months. If you need a helping hand, there is loose *Cucumeris* available locally for next day introductions while *Swirskii* establishes.



Cucumeris Adult



Swirskii Adult With Bran On Leaf



Thrips In Cucumber Flower

Peppers:

- Root zone protection for long season crops-see this section on tomatoes and *Hypoaspis* and *Atheta* above.
- Preventative applications for disease management will be top of the list this year. Significant losses from *Fusarium sp.* internal fruit rot in 2009 should alert you of problems to come.

Pollination Update

Start up pollination is going well. There are good quality plants and flowers at farms this winter. Bee activity is excellent despite the inconsistent sunny conditions.



Bee Marks On Tomato Flower

Scout's Corner



Check Your Weeds

During this time of year your plants are probably young and things may be rather quiet. This is a great time to *check your weeds!* Find weeds around posts and along walls; examine leaves and look closely. A treatment with the only broad spectrum greenhouse registered herbicide EcoClear® may be in order. Check with your MGS Sales or Pest Management Rep to see where this fits in your crop cycle and type of greenhouse.

Most commonly you will find whitefly eggs (sometimes larvae and adults), aphids, thrips, and spider mites. Be sure to look very closely as sometimes



Focus Scouting Time Around Posts For Early Detection Of Mites



Weeds In Greenhouse

the damage is not so obvious. Use a good hand lens if possible; this can make a big difference. What often appears to be dirt on the underside of some weeds may actually be spider mites.