



## NTNGA July Newsletter

### July Meeting

July will be a NTNGA/TNLA Region 3 joint meeting on Thursday July 9<sup>th</sup>. It will be held at Bruno's Pizza Restaurant in Gresham starting at 6:00 pm.

They are located at 15770 FM 2493 (Old Jacksonville Hwy) in Gresham. The meal will be sponsored by Berry Plastics, Kinney Bonded Warehouse, OHP, Inc. and Sungro Hort.

Jared Lee of OHP, Inc. will be speaking on new chemicals and Scott Ludwig of Texas AgriLife Extension will be giving a brief overview of things they have done in 2009.

Please RSVP to Kinney Bonded Warehouse @ (903)509-8803 or email [kristi.martinez@kbwsupply.com](mailto:kristi.martinez@kbwsupply.com) by Tuesday July 7<sup>th</sup>.

### June Meeting

**Thank you** to Blalock Wholesale and American Income Life Company for hosting and sponsoring the June meeting. Present were 19 members and two guest.

Thanks to everyone involved in putting it together.

### **Chilli Thrips Found in East Texas**

**Scott Ludwig**

Earlier this month I received plants from an East Texas wholesale nursery with damage that the grower thought was possibly herbicide damage. As soon as I put the sample under the microscope my worst fears came true. The damage was not the results of a preemergent herbicide. Rather, the damage was from chilli thrips. I went out to the nursery and walked the entire facility with the grower to determine what plants were impacted. We estimated that approximately 20% of the nursery was infested with chilli thrips. The good news is that with a stringent management program we should be able to clean up the nursery. Unfortunately, we were unable to determine where the thrips came from. I would suggest that all ornamental crop producers and landscapers in the state be on the lookout for unusual plant damage.

*Description.* Chilli thrips are extremely small and difficult to distinguish from other thrips species without the aid of a good hand lens or compound microscope. Adults are pale with dark wings and less than 1 mm in length. Immature chilli thrips are also pale in color and resemble the immature stages of many other thrips species.

*Feeding Damage.* Chilli thrips infestations are usually first detected by their distinctive feeding damage. Unlike flower thrips, which feed primarily on pollen, chilli thrips feed on various plant tissues. Feeding causes bronzing (tissues turning bronze in color) of leaves, buds, and fruit. Damaged leaves may curl upward and appear distorted. Infested plants become stunted or dwarfed and leaves may detach from the stem at the petioles in some plant species. Feeding may also cause buds to become brittle and drop. Young leaves, buds and fruits are preferred, although all above-ground parts of host plants may be attacked. Damage can be easily confused with herbicide damage, broad mites, or even a foliar pathogen.

*Host range.* Chilli thrips have a very broad host range and may feed on many of the common plants. All broadleafed plants should be considered potential hosts for this thrips. Some of the more common plants attacked are roses (all types), Indian hawthorn, cleyera, begonias, plumbago, blueberry, schefflera, duranta, sweet viburnum, verbena, oaks, live oak, red maple, Japanese maple, grape, Japanese maple, English ivy, viburnum, and ornamental peppers.

*Plant Monitoring and Identification.* Plants with the symptoms described above should be examined closely for the presence of thrips. Thrips collected from the leaves or buds of plants with suspected damage should be collected and properly identified. If you wish to participate in efforts to monitor the distribution of this pest in Texas, place samples of thrips or suspected thrips-infested plant

parts into a Ziploc bag, add a dry piece of paper towel or napkin to avoid excessive moisture, and seal the bag. Label the bag with collection information including locality (city or town and county), date, species of host plant, and your name and contact information. Send samples via express mail (next-day delivery) to assure good sample quality. Please send samples to: *Chilli Thrips Lab, Texas AgriLife\_Extension Service, P.O. Box 38, Overton, TX 75684*

**Reminder: There will be no meeting in August.**