

Bugged?

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A Petri's Positive Pest Control Publication dedicated to keeping our customers informed about all aspects of pest control.



Pete Positive
Man of Extinction

Residential and Commercial • Indoor & Perimeter Pest Control • Lawn and Ornamental Spraying & Fertilizing • Termite Control Solutions

New Whitefly Hits South Florida Gumbo Limbo Spiraling Whitefly

The Gumbo Limbo Spiraling Whitefly is a new whitefly to be found in South Florida. This is not the same whitefly as the ficus whitefly that also continues to cause defoliation and dieback of branches on ficus hedges and trees in South Florida.

Originally found in Miami-Dade County in March 2009, this whitefly was collected from gumbo limbo trees. Since that time it has rapidly spread to areas of Broward and Palm Beach Counties. This particular whitefly has a very broad range of host plants including gumbo limbo, black olive, mango, Brazilian pepper, cocoplum, wax myrtle, live oak and a variety of palm trees including areca, coconut, date palms, and many more. Since this whitefly is a new whitefly much is still be-



Adult whitefly

ing learned about the biology, the damage caused to plants and the control of the insect. What is known is that the adult whiteflies are 3 to 10 times the size of other types of whitefly and move much slower. Adults congregate on the underside of leaves to feed and reproduce. The female lays her eggs in a spiral pattern on the leaves and also deposits a white, waxy substance on the eggs. The

crawler stage that hatches from the eggs starts to feed with its "needle-like" mouthparts. The crawler will molt and go through many stages. It is believed that it is the immature stages of this pest, and not the adults, that cause the most damage.

Damage to Plants: The white, waxy material covering the leaves, the tremendous amount of "honeydew" that is produced by these insects, and the excessive black sooty mold growth that sticks to the honeydew are the most noticeable symptoms of this whitefly. Although the actual effects on plants are still being learned, plant decline, defoliation and branch dieback can result if left untreated.

Treatment: The best treatment methods are still being determined because this is such a new pest. Monitoring plants for early signs of infestation and looking at nearby trees as well for signs of infestation are important first steps in control. Being aware of natural parasites and enemies of this

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Infested palm

WHAT ARE WHITEFLIES?

They are small, winged insects that belong to the Order Hemiptera which also includes aphids, scales, and mealybugs.

These insects typically feed on the underside of leaves with their “needle-like” mouthparts.

Whiteflies can seriously injure host plants by sucking nutrients from the plant causing wilting, yellowing, stunting, leaf drop, or even death. There are more than 75 different whiteflies reported in Florida.



whitefly is also important so they are not killed while in the process of controlling the whitefly.

Petri has found that for long term control drenching the soil or root base with a systemic insecticide is the best treatment method. We have also found that different products and rates must be used based on the species and size of the plant specimen. For more information about this new pest or a free evaluation please feel free to call Petri at:

(954) 781-4100 or e-mail us at info@petrispestcontrol.com

Credit UF IFAS extension for information and pictures used in these articles.

New Manager Joins Petri Team



Petri is extremely proud to welcome **Jeff Colburn** to our team. Jeff comes to Petri with over 17 years experience in the industry. He started his career at Yankee Pest Control in Massachusetts as a technician and Service Manager for a period of 9 years. Jeff then became the Technical Director of Environmental Health Services for 4 years. Over the past 4 years Jeff has been the Installation Pest Management Coordinator for the Hanscom Air Force Base, in charge of all structural and lawn pest management for the base.

Jeff currently holds 11 state licenses and has completed several pest management courses from Purdue University. He served as the chairman of the training and education committee for the New England Pest Management Association from 2000-2003. In 2006 he was honored as BASF's All-Star Technician as reported in Pest Control Technology Magazine and Pest Control Magazine. In both 2009 and 2010 he received the Operational Excellence Award for outstanding service from the Federal Government.

We are pleased that Jeff shares Petri's values and customer driven service philosophy and feel very fortunate to have someone of Jeff's caliber join our organization.

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