

March 2023 Eastern NC Nursery & Greenhouse News

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Broad Mites in Greenhouse Ornamentals

During a recent greenhouse visit in eastern NC, broad mites (*Polyphagotarsonemus latus*) were found damaging new guinea impatiens. They cause distortion of new growth that might mimic herbicide injury, although broad mite injury will typically be more scattered in distribution. Removing and destroying damaged plants and immediately surrounding plants is recommended. Other non-symptomatic plants may be treated with a miticide that is effective on broad mites. All miticides are not effective on broad mites. [Here is a link](#) to a broad mite pest alert from a colleague in New Jersey that will be helpful in making selections and it has great resource links as well. You can see broad mites with a hand lens but need 60x magnification to be able to correctly identify them.

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via Text

NC State Extension has begun using Slick Text to send out timely messages to your mobile phone via text and I am working to add those interested to my list. You will only receive nursery & greenhouse program related information. It will mainly send texts related to insect, disease, and weather related production challenges. I will begin sending texts when I get 50 people signed up. Currently there are 31 on the list so sign up now if you have not and pass this on to others that might be interested.

If you would like to receive information via short texts then [click this link to sign up](#).

March and April Nursery Insect and Mite Pest Scouting

I have recently been sending out some insect and mite pest alerts. Here is a review of those pests to scout for in March and upcoming in April based on Growing Degree Days with base 50 degrees (GDD): We are currently 30-40 days ahead of the 30 year average of GDD.

Current GDD (March 22, 2023):

Wilmington - 498.5
Jacksonville - 469.5
New Bern - 429
Lumberton - 360.5
Fayetteville - 334.5
Goldsboro - 319
Kinston - 317.5
Wilson - 285
Greenville - 277
Raleigh - 253.5
Rocky Mount - 245
Roanoke Rapids - 235
Elizabeth City - 222.5

Pest to currently scout for:

Links for fact sheets are highlighted in blue lettering below.

[Ambrosia Beetles](#) (treat stressed susceptible trees prior to 3 consecutive days at or above 70 degrees Fahrenheit through full leaf out)
[Azalea lace bug](#) (scout continually)
[Azalea leaf miner](#) (450-800 GDD-first generation eggs laid, scout for adults at flower)
[Azalea whitefly](#) (adults and nymphs 448-700 GDD)
[Boxwood leaf miner](#) (scout for adults beginning around 250 GDD to 440 GDD)
[Crapemyrtle bark scale](#) (scout continually)
[Dogwood borer](#) (adult activity 148 to 700 GDD)
[Holly leafminers](#) (adult egg laying through 265 GDD)
[Maple shoot borer](#) (from leaf bud break to 1" of first leaf expansion)
[Red-headed flea beetle larvae](#) (if over 250 GDD in plants overwintered in structures or over 400 GDD for plants overwintered outdoors jammed or with covers). Scout for adults in plants overwintered in structures starting at 500 GDD)
[Spruce spider mite](#) (immatures and adults 190-363 GDD)
[Two-spotted spider mite](#) (adults 437-997 GDD)

If you have questions about management of any of these pests or others let me know.

GDD referenced from the [University of Maryland Pest Predictive Calendar](#) and the draft version of the Rutgers University Nursery & Landscape Pest Scouting guide (not available online yet).

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