

## Whiteflies in Palm Beach County ~ Choosing a Pest Control Company

University of Florida / IFAS

Palm Beach County Cooperative Extension Service



**Fact Sheet #4 in a series brought to you through the efforts of the Palm Beach County Whitefly Task Force**

Task Force Website: <http://www.pbcgov.com/coextension/horticulture/whitefly/>

Whitefly Blog Archives: <http://palmbeachcountyextension.wordpress.com/category/whitefly/>

*Laura Sanagorski, Environmental Horticulture Extension Agent*

*Bill Schall, Commercial Horticulture Extension Agent*

*Palm Beach County Whitefly Task Force*

### CHOOSING A PEST CONTROL COMPANY

Residents may choose not to control whiteflies themselves. Professionals have access to a broader range of products, and are required to be trained and licensed to apply them. When selecting a pest control company for whitefly management, consider asking the following to ensure they are proficient in management of whiteflies:

**What product do you use and how do you use it?** Answer: a neonicotinoid soil drench or granular (active ingredient: imidacloprid, dinotefuran, clothianidin or thiamethoxam) applied to the soil in the early spring (for ficus whitefly, and as needed for the others). Or, a trunk application which includes concentrated trunk spray or trunk injection.

**How do you recommend I water the plant materials after the soil treatment is applied?** Answer: Be sure the plant receives adequate water for healthy growth. If conditions are dry at the time of application, the insecticide may become partially locked in the soil and no longer give you the full measure of control needed. Also, adequate watering helps ensure the pesticide moves up into the plant via the roots.

**What about foliar sprays?** Answer: We may also supplement with a foliar spray, but not a neonicotinoid or pyrethroid (i.e., active ingredients like Bifenthrin, Cyfluthrin, Cypermethrin, including the resolved isomer alpha-cypermethrin, Cyphenothrin, Deltamethrin, Esfenvalerate, Fenpropathrin, Fenvalerate, lambda-Cyhalothrin, Permethrin, tau-Fluvalinate). Also, the company should only spray the portions of the plant and immediately around the areas with a heavy infestation, or where defoliation is apparent.

**Are you following the soil treatment rates specifically recommended by the manufacturer for the control of ficus whitefly and rugose spiraling whitefly?** Answer: Yes, we follow the label and are following supplemental information from University of Florida Extension agents or manufacturer.

---

Remember, the label is the law; be sure to use products only in a manner consistent with the manufacturer directions on the labels.

Please use pesticides safely.

The use of trade names in any publication is solely for the purpose of providing information. Palm Beach County Extension does not guarantee or warranty the products named, and reference to them in this publication does not signify our approval to the exclusion of other products of suitable composition.

The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) is an Equal Opportunity Institution authorized to provide research, educational information, and other services only to individuals and institutions that function without discrimination with respect to race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, political opinions or affiliations, genetic information and veteran status as protected under the Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act., U.S. Department of Agriculture, Cooperative Extension Service, University of Florida, IFAS, Florida A&M University Cooperative Extension Program, and Boards of County Commissioners Cooperating.

In accordance with the provisions of ADA, this document may be requested in a different format.