Daniel K. Hasegawa Research Entomologist USDA-ARS, Salinas CA



Agricultural Research Service

Pest Management Meeting 12/5/2023

- 1. 2023 observations: weather, weeds, thrips, INSV
- 2. Thrips nursery sampling
- 3. New tools for detecting INSV and Pythium
- 4. Peptide technologies for managing thrips and diamondback moth
- 5. Improved methods for trapping and monitoring thrips







Temperature and precipitation: 2000-2023

CIMIS Station 116: Salinas North



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Thrips monitoring: 2019 – 2023

Thrips/Sticky Card/Week (Salinas Valley Averages)



Desktop version: <u>https://salinaspestmap.shinyapps.io/salinas-pestmap/</u> **Mobile version:** <u>https://salinaspestmap.shinyapps.io/salinas-pestmap-mobile/</u>







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Thrips nursery sampling



Dr. Kirsten Pearsons UCCE





Slide provided by Kirsten Pearsons

Thrips nursery sampling

March – August 2023



Thrips populations in nurseries followed Salinas Valley trends



Highest adult densities on conventional cauliflower and organic broccoli, sampled in July



Slide provided by Kirsten Pearsons

731 adult thrips tested ~98.7% western flower thrips ~1.64% positive for INSV (no TSWV)



Slide provided by Kirsten Pearsons

<u>399 larvae tested</u> ~99.6% western flower thrips None positive for INSV (no TSWV)



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INSV + Pythium infections



Dr. JP Dundore-Arias, Karla Jasso, M.S. student California State University Monterey Bay

Field trials

- 6 fields in 2022
- 7 fields in 2023

Weekly evaluations

- Foliar and root symptoms
 - INSV: leaf necrosis
 - Pythium Wilt: wilting of leaves
- Diagnostics
 - INSV: TAS-ELISA (leaves + roots)
 - Pythium spp.: Culturing (roots)
 - N=20 plants





New tools for quantifying INSV and *P. uncinulatum*

Multiplex qPCR



Viviana Camelo Postdoc, USDA-ARS



Frank Martin USDA-ARS





Austin McCoy Timothy Miles Martin Chilvers Michigan State University



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Novel peptides for managing western flower thrips and diamondback moth

2.5 years: (2022 - 2025)

- <u>Phase 1 (Discovery)</u>: Identification and expression of receptors that are specific to western flower thrips (WFT) and diamondback moth (DBM),
- <u>Phase 2 (Synthesis)</u>: Screen, design, and synthesize bioactive peptides that selectively bind to and disrupt WFT and DBM GPCRs, and
- <u>Phase 3 (Efficacy)</u>: Evaluate the efficacy of bioactive peptides on WFT and DBM survival.



TECHNOLOGY

PEST MANAGEMENT ...

PEST MANAGEMENT

New technology for environmentally safe pest control discovered

"Receptor interference" technology disrupts the vital processes needed for fire ants to survive



Dr. Manny Choi Research Entomologist, USDA-ARS Corvallis, OR



Laura Hladky Lab Tech, USDA-ARS



Juan Vargas USDA-ARS, Salinas CSUMB undergrad



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Western flower thrips

Diamondback moth





Dr. Manny Choi Research Entomologist, USDA-ARS Corvallis, OR



Laura Hladky Lab Tech, USDA-ARS



Juan Vargas USDA-ARS, Salinas CSUMB undergrad

Fluorescence (Receptor binding)

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Improved methods for trapping and monitoring thrips



Which thrips have INSV?





Deena Husein Postdoc, USDA-ARS

Field testing 3D-printed thrips traps





Deena Husein Postdoc, USDA-ARS



Laura Hladky Lab Tech, USDA-ARS

Field testing 3D-printed thrips traps







Deena Husein Postdoc, USDA-ARS



Laura Hladky Lab Tech, USDA-ARS



Shulu Zhang Postdoc, USDA-ARS

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Thank you!

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- Postdocs: Viviana Camelo, Shulu Zhang, Deena Husein
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USDA-ARS, Salinas, CA Bill Wintermantel, Aaron Rocha, Frank Martin

University of California Cooperative Extension, Monterey County Richard Smith, Kirsten Pearsons, Alejandro Del-Pozo (Virginia Tech)

California State University Monterey Bay (CSUMB) JP Dundore-Arias, Karla Jasso, Cecilia Diaz

University of California Davis Ian Grettenberger

Growers, PCAs, CCAs, other industry members and stakeholders

Grower-Shipper Association of Central CA Chris Valadez, GSA President Mary Zischke, INSV/PW Task Force leader

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD & AGRICULTURE

