Current Research Objectives

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Research topic: Horticultural psyllid management

Primary Research Objective(s):
  • Repelling psyllids with particle films
  • Coordinating psyllid management with flush

Research Goal:
  • Reduce HLB infection using particle films that “camouflage” plants to prevent psyllid feeding
  • Reduce HLB infection by manipulating the plant’s susceptible periods to better coordinate insecticide application

Outcomes to date:
We have found that:
  • Particle films are more effective than foliar insecticides in reducing HLB infection.
  • Adding specific colored dyes to particle films further reduces psyllid feeding and HLB infection.
  • Particle films also increase photosynthesis and growth.
  • Application of plant hormones can hasten or delay growth flushes, which effects the plant’s infection susceptibility.

Some growers are now using commercially available particle films in their psyllid management. Commercial kaolin company is discussing possibility of using a dyed product to improve psyllid efficacy.

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