

Biological Insect Control of Herbaceous Perennials

Final Report for FNE97-162

Project Type: Farmer

Funds awarded in 1997: \$600.00

Projected End Date: 12/31/1998

Region: Northeast

State: Connecticut

Project Leader:

[Michael Berez](#)

Project Information

Summary:

Note to readers, attached is the complete final report for FNE97-162

Mr. Berez raises perennial ornamentals in a greenhouse. He obtained a SARE grant to experiment with non-chemical methods of controlling two common insect pest species of greenhouses-- fungus gnats and western flower thrips. He used the following treatments in combination:

Treatment, Target

- 1) *Steinernema feltiae*, fungus gnat larvae
- 2) Neem extract, larvae of both pest species
- 3) *hypoaspis miles*, fungus gnat adults
- 4) *Neoseiulus cucumeris*, western flower trips adults
- 5) *Beauveria bassiana*, adults of both pest species

S. feltiaw is a nematode, *H. miles* and *N. cucumeris* are mites and *B. bassiana* is a fungus. All were purchased from commercial vendors and applied according to recommendations. Potato slices, which attracted fungus gnat larvae, were placed among the greenhouse plants and examined periodically to monitor populations. Adults were monitored with sticky cards, yellow for fungus gnats and blue for the western flower thrips. Results obtained with this complex of biological controls were compared with those obtained in another greenhouse where typical chemical treatments were used.

Mr. Berez reports good control of pests in both greenhouses, but he says the biological control measures were much more expensive. He believes, however, that they may be made more competitive if a way can be found to reduce the labor involved.

- [FNE97-162 Final Report](#)

Cooperators

- [Leanne Pundt](#)

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Research

Participation Summary

Any opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the view of the U.S. Department of Agriculture or SARE.



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