

Introduction to Scouting

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Overview

- Goals of Scouting
- Tools used in Scouting



What is Scouting?

- Regular inspection to look for plant problems
 - Biotic: Insects, mites, or diseases
 - Abiotic: Plant nutrient disorders, physiological disorders
- Scout at least once a week
- Record problems present
 - Number and location of insects and mites
 - Number and location of plants with disease problems

Goals of Scouting

- Scouting:
 - Allows for early detection (fewer/safer pesticides)
 - Track population numbers (increasing versus decreasing)
 - Provides information for making decisions
- Scouting is an important component of IPM or Integrated Pest Management

Scouting Tools – Sticky Cards

- Sticky cards
 - Scout for flying insects:
 - Fungus gnats
 - Shore flies
 - Western flower thrips
 - Whiteflies
 - Winged aphids



Scouting Tools – Sticky Cards

- Sticky cards
 - Yellow, 3" x 5"
 - Locate near plants – attach to bamboo stake with clothespin
 - 1-2 every 1000 ft²



Scouting Tools - Magnification

- Hand Lens – 10X or 20X



Scouting Tools - Magnification

- Optivisor
- Hand-held microscope
 - Smart phone magnifier
 - Magnifier attachment for smart phone
 - Hand-held digital microscope (i.e. DinoLite)



Scouting Tools - Other

- Something to record data
- Flags or flagging tape
- Gloves
- Apron



Thank you!

