

# Some Critical Questions to Consider While Scouting Greenhouse Ornamentals

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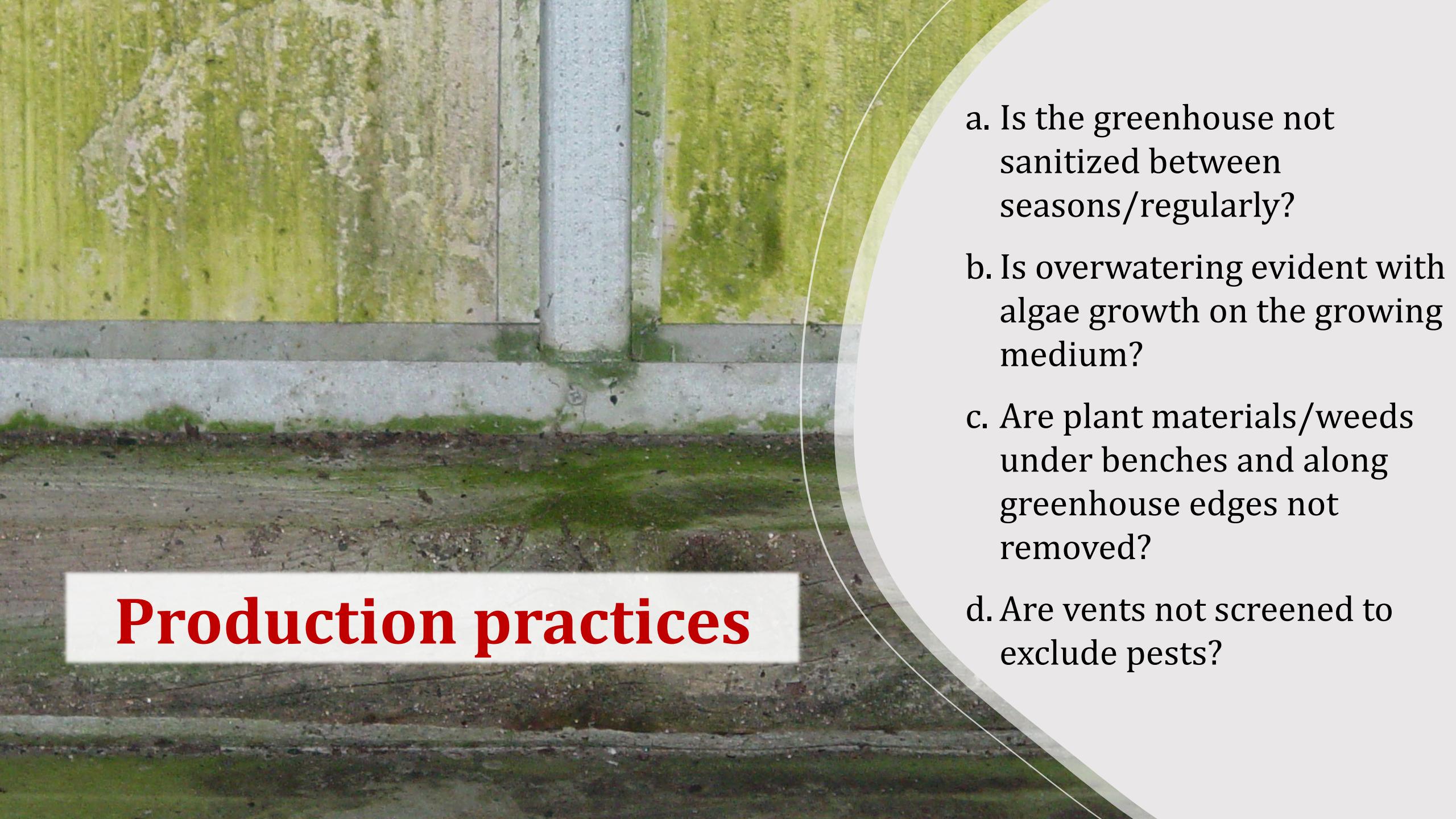
Greenhouse Scout School  
Session 3: February 27, 2025



# Basic scouting & Data collection

- a. Are sticky cards and plants regularly checked?
- b. Are incoming plant shipments inspected for pests when they first arrived?
- c. What pests are infesting the crop?
- d. What specific crops are infested?
- e. How many pests are present per plant?
- f. How much of the crop is infested in each greenhouse (%)?
- g. Are biocontrol agents present (i.e., mummies, larvae, etc.)?
- h. What are the ratios of pests/natural enemies on plants?
- i. Are the areas that are infested marked/flagged to monitor over time?
- j. Are pests/natural enemies increasing/decreasing on cards/plants over time?
- k. Do employees know how to identify pests?





## Production practices

- a. Is the greenhouse not sanitized between seasons/regularly?
- b. Is overwatering evident with algae growth on the growing medium?
- c. Are plant materials/weeds under benches and along greenhouse edges not removed?
- d. Are vents not screened to exclude pests?

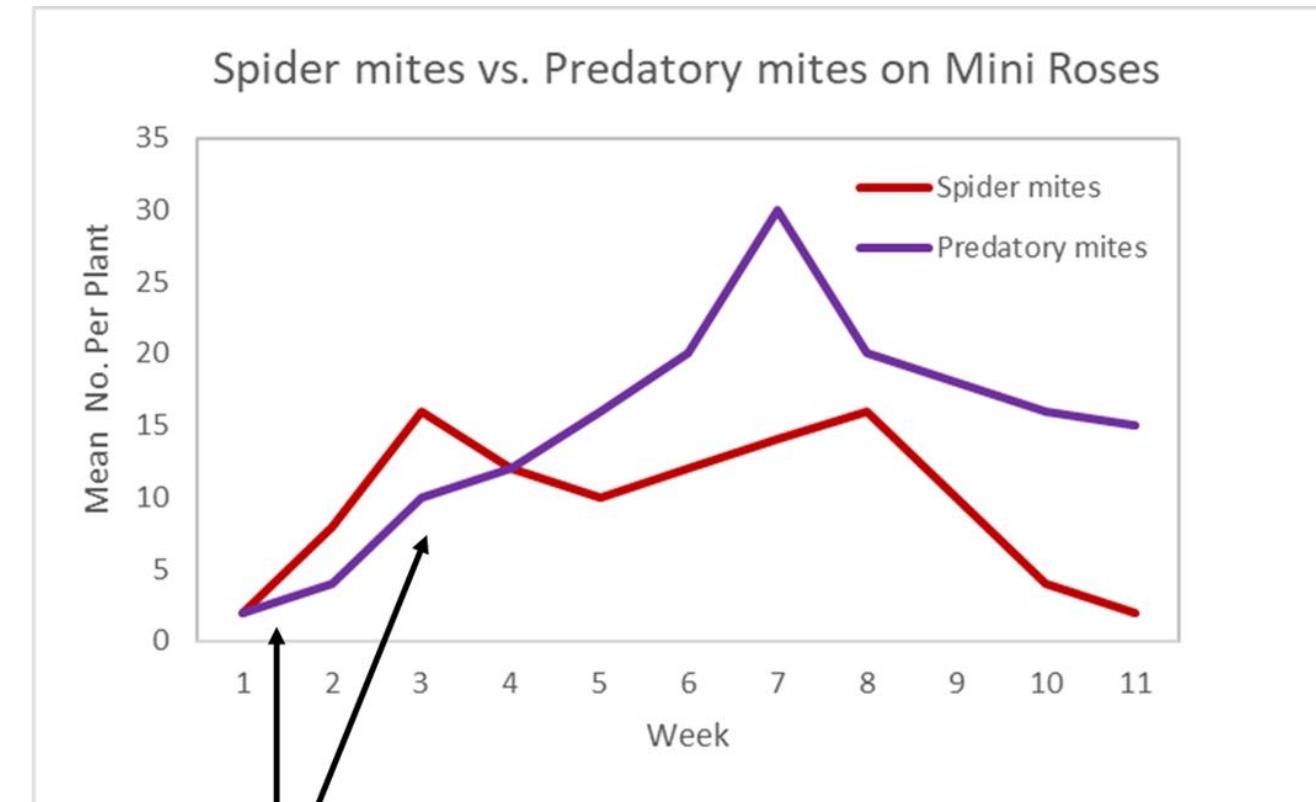
## Relating to natural enemy and/or chemical pesticide use

- a. Are pest levels too high for biocontrol or does it need knockdown with a pesticide?
- b. Were the right products for the pests used (were label/biocontrol release guidelines read)?
- c. Are products used during the right life stage of the pest's life cycle?
- d. Are natural enemies used at the right time of year?
- e. Are the right rates for the level of pests per plant, number of plants infested, and greenhouse size used?
- f. Was the quality of the biocontrol agents assessed prior to release?
- g. Is follow-up scouting on the management action carried out to determine efficacy?



- a. How did the previous management strategies work (current and past year's)?
- b. At what time of year and on what plants do the pest problems routinely occur?
- c. What was done to manage the pests (or not)?
- d. What were the pest (and biocontrol) levels on the specific crops at time of management?

## Record keeping



Predators released preventatively

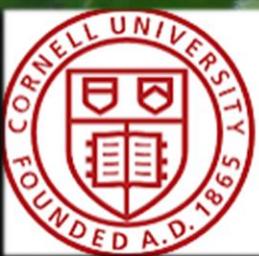


# Planning ahead



- a. Is a management plan outlined?
- b. If management last season didn't work, what could the reasons be (Were pest numbers too high for biocontrol; Were treatments made at the wrong life stage; Was the wrong rate applied)?
- c. Was professional consultation sought (i.e., biocontrol suppliers, pesticide reps, Univ. Extension)?

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This work is supported by the National Institute of Food & Agric., U.S. Dept. of Agric., through the Northeast Sustainable Agric. Research & Education program under subaward number ONE22-419), UVM Extension and College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

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Thank You!

