

# Communicating Information

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Greenhouse Scout School  
**Session 4: February 12, 2026**





The role of the **scout** is to inform the head decision maker about pest problems.

# Build A Communication Plan

**Define realistic expectations:** No. days/hours, products, etc. (i.e., day of week information needed by).

**Determine best format to relay info:** Written reports? Typed pdf? Hand delivered? Email? Text? Pictures? Weekly meeting?

## Establish SOPs:

- **Infestations:** Set plants aside? Throw away? Leave them? Flag all or a few?
- **Action thresholds:** critical pest level that warrants treatment
- **Pesticide applications:** Occurring when?

**Get to know the staff:** They can inform about issues.



# Other Principles

**CONFIDENTIAL**

**Build trust & be honest/Confidentiality:**  
Never ever discuss problems with outsiders (other growers, customers, vendors) or guess/assume the problem.

**Protect other client's plants:** Sanitize/change clothes/shoes before going to new location to avoid spreading pests.

**Gauge/know recipient's 'style':** Reactive, Proactive, Unreactive.



# Stay Informed



**Plant  
Diagnostic  
Clinic**

**Stay up to date:** Seminars, trade magazines, workshops, Egrow, email lists, invasive species to watch out for, etc.

**Network:** Univ. diagnostic clinics, industry representatives, etc.



# Interpreting Data

Week # vs Actual Date?

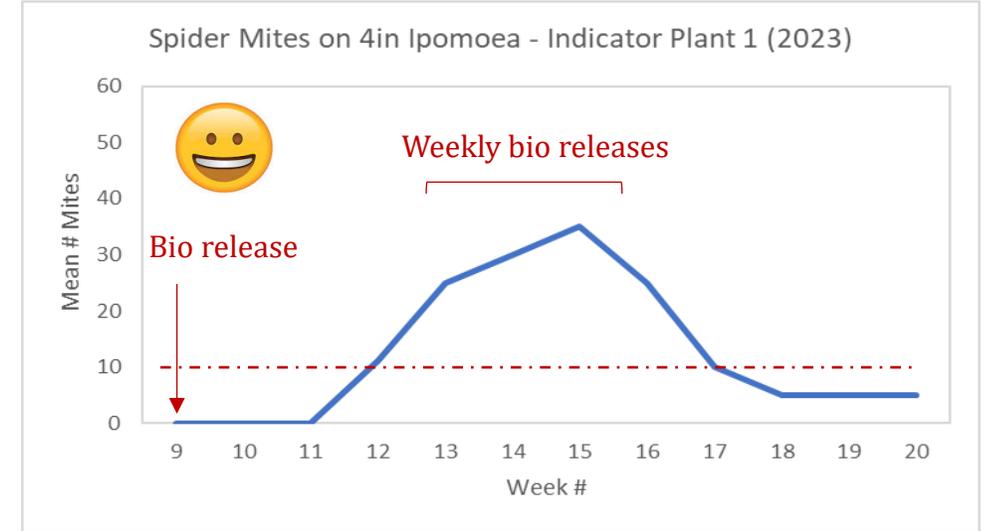
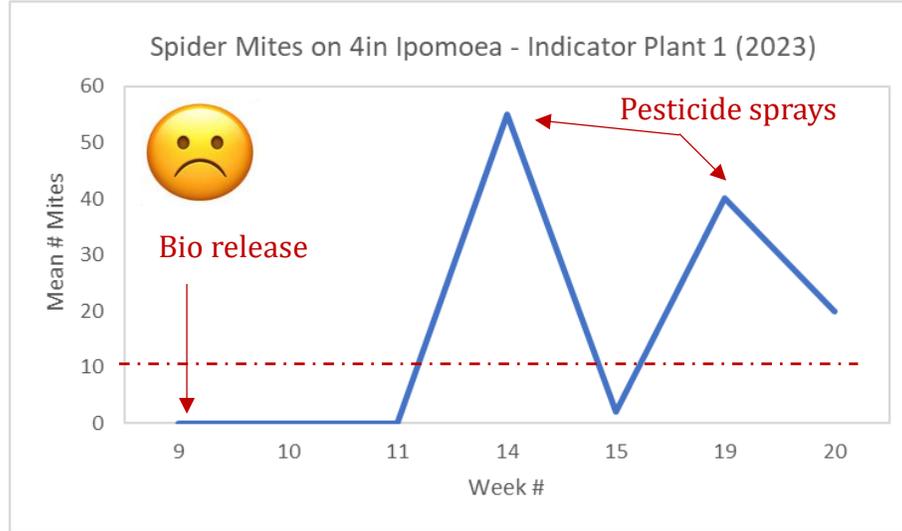
M A R						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
9			1	2	3	4
10	5	6	7	8	9	10
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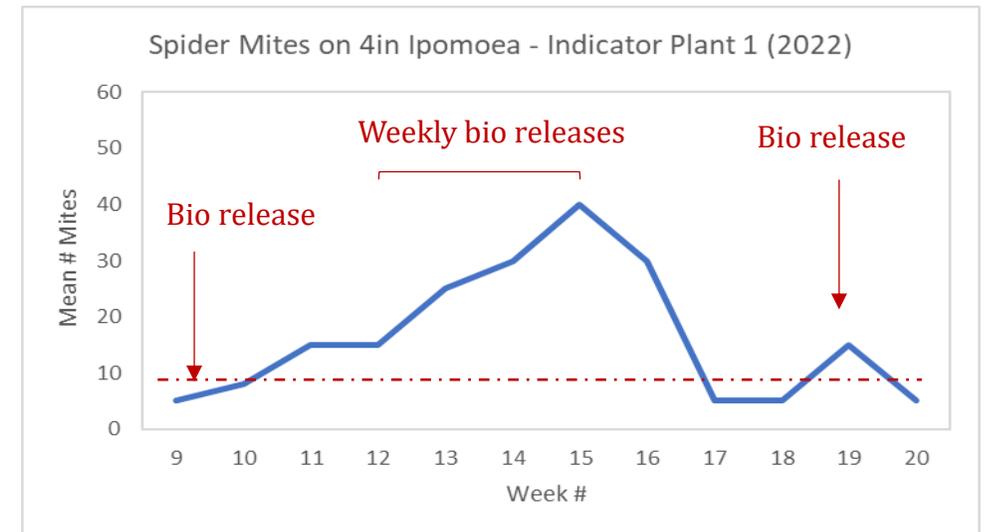
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M A Y						
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19	7	8	9	10	11	12
20	14	15	16	17	18	19
21	21	22	23	24	25	26
22	28	29	30	31		



----- = action threshold



Compare with the past....

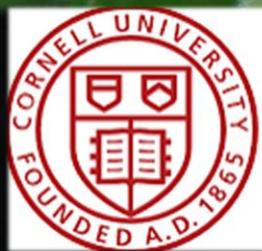
# WWYD??

You find chrysanthemum white rust (CWR), a fungus *Puccinia horiana*, while scouting. It is a regulated (quarantine) pest.

[https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/planthealth/plant-pest-and-disease-programs/pests-and-diseases/plant-disease/sa\\_cwr/ct\\_chrysanthemum\\_white\\_rust](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/planthealth/plant-pest-and-disease-programs/pests-and-diseases/plant-disease/sa_cwr/ct_chrysanthemum_white_rust)



# Thank You!



Cornell University



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