



Creating a scouting plan: The macroview of the greenhouse

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Elizabeth Lamb

What is a 'macroview' of a greenhouse?

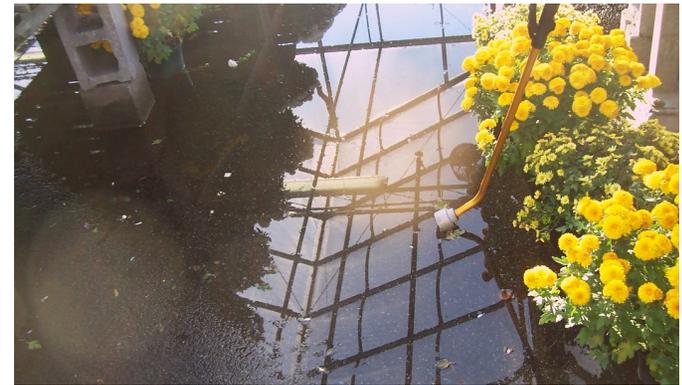
- Before you even look at the plants, look at the
- Large scale view
 - Structure
 - Plants
 - History
- You are gathering information to make your time scouting more efficient

What do you notice in this greenhouse that would possibly affect your scouting?



Structure

- Floors – concrete vs dirt, clean landscape fabric vs dirty landscape fabric
 - Thrips and fungus gnats with dirt floors or even gravel
- Size
 - Number of sticky cards and where to put them
 - 1/1000 sq ft PLUS.... for sticky cards
 - How many plants are you scouting and where?
- Traffic patterns
 - How pests might be carried into and around the house by people
 - How you might get around to scout the plants
- Airflow
 - Where does air move in and out of house
 - Air intake can be a location for hot spots
 - Where do plants dry out first? - spider mites



Structure, continued

- Water
 - Are there drips from irrigation or hose bibs? – shore flies
 - Overhead irrigation or drip or watering from below?
 - Which diseases would you expect to find?
 - Where do plants dry out first or stay wet
 - Along walkways
 - What is outside the greenhouse?
 - Plants that might have pests/diseases that affect the crop
 - Weeds with seeds that might come in
 - Incidental insects that just get stuck on the cards
 - How can they get in from out there?
- Add scouting locations where you would expect to find issues



Plants

- Patterns in plant appearance across the greenhouse
 - Different colors – is this genetic or a disease?
 - Light color/direction/amount and time of scouting
- Are plants moved from place to place – and how does that affect results?
- What can you actually pick up to look at?
- Check these more carefully
 - Pet or stock plants
 - New plants just brought in to greenhouse
 - Large or overgrown plants
 - Weeds?

Remember to leave things as you found them –
irrigation, put plants back into pots carefully...



Some information you need to get from the grower

- Previous crops and pests
 - What crops were grown there before?
 - Where were they
 - Were there hotspots?
 - Are the pests likely to still be there?
 - Crop – and weed – free period
 - Which pests can survive without a host (including weeds)
 - Spider mites
 - Fungus gnats
 - Temperature extremes are not enough



Information and Observation

- What looks different or out of place/unusual
 - Different angles – look across aisles as well as along them
 - Look in 3 dimensions – hanging baskets?
 - Experience!

- You may need to look in other places



Why is this information important?

- Use to create a scouting plan
 - Where should you be scouting?
- Making scouting more efficient
 - What should you be looking at
 - Where should you be spending your time?
- So I'm a new scout on a 44 acre greenhouse (grape tomatoes). I can scout 20-40 rows a day (out of 950 rows) depending on how busy the rows are.
- I feel like by the time I get to an area it's already infested.
- I know industry standard for a greenhouse my size (experienced scout) is around 185 rows a day. (whole house takes 5 days)
- I know I lose a lot of time stopping to flag plants and to look with the hand lens, how could I do this quicker?