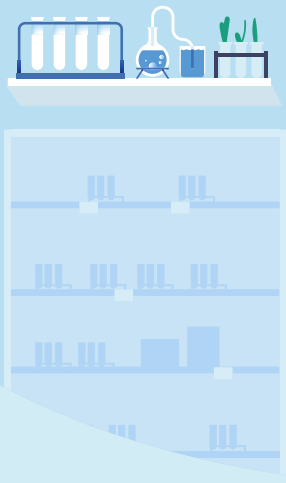


BETTER PRODUCTION PRACTICES FOR BETTER THRIPS CONTROL



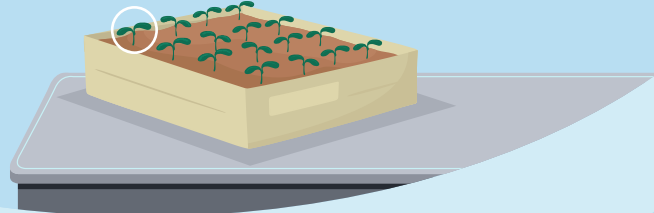
1 RESISTANT VARIETIES



 Selecting resistant varieties is key.

Varieties with similar appearance are shown to have different susceptibility to thrips.

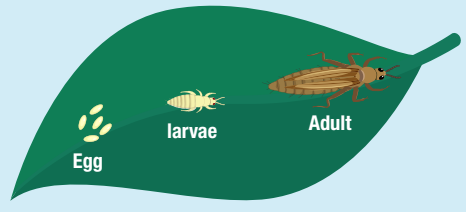
Resistant cultivar




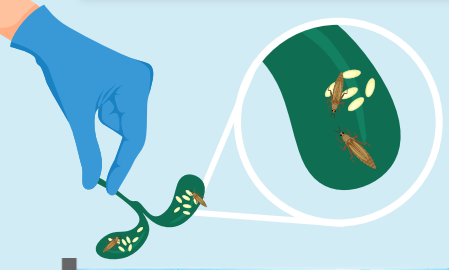
- Dipping cuttings can knock down pest populations and give biocontrol agents a kick-start.
- Reducing fertilizer is cost-effective and environmentally friendly, and can potentially help control thrips population growth.
- Tested biostimulants did not induce resistance to thrips in chrysanthemum nor did they help plants cope with reduced nutrients.
- Selecting resistant varieties is key as well as implementing a strong biocontrol program

2 DIPPING INCOMING CUTTINGS

Life stages of thrips found on cuttings

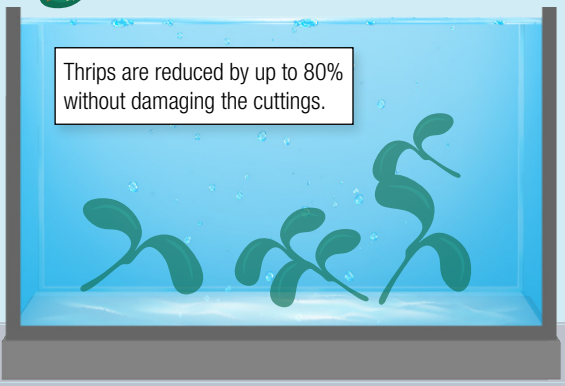



 Dip cuttings in products based on mineral oil or entomopathogens to knock down pest populations.



Assume that incoming cuttings already contain thrips.

Thrips are reduced by up to 80% without damaging the cuttings.



 More fertilizer means more nitrogen.

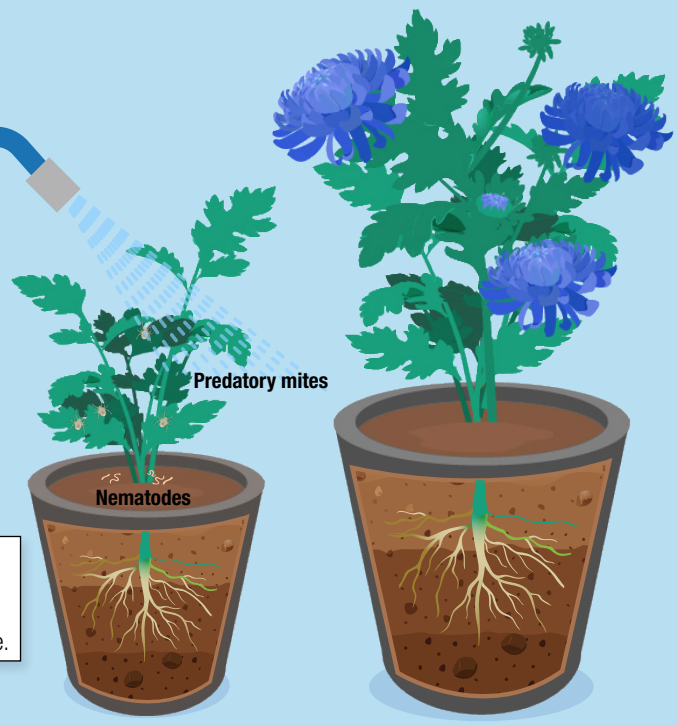
High fertilizer use creates the perfect host plant – higher nutrients and lower plant natural defenses – for thrips infestations.




3 REDUCE FERTILIZER IF POSSIBLE



Start a biocontrol program, using predatory mites, nematodes, biopesticides and predators, as early as possible.



 Biostimulants were tested; in chrysanthemum, they did not have any effect on thrips infestation nor did they help plants cope with reduced fertilizer.

The effect of chrysanthemum variety on thrips performance was stronger than the effect of fertilizer.