

Chemical Control/New Products

Orchard Floor Management and Insecticide Timing for Thrips Suppression in Cherries

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*Abstract:* The effects of chemical and mechanical treatments of the orchard floor on western flower thrips were examined in a commercial orchard. In addition, an iterative spray trial with spinosad against thrips was conducted. Pesticide treatments (Carzol, Asana, and Roundup) and a mowing treatment were accomplished in late April around bloom time. Pesticide and mowing treatments caused dispersal of thrips into the canopy shortly after treatment. One week after treatment, canopy thrips counts were lowest in the Roundup and control plots. We conclude that orchard floor treatments to suppress thrips should not be conducted around bloom time as any disturbance of the orchard floor causes thrips dispersal into the canopy. In the spinosad spray trial, a weekly treatment of Success on top of the grower's spray program was made to two cherry trees to determine the effects on thrips populations. In successive weeks, previously treated trees were sprayed again. No effect on thrips was noted, despite the fact that some trees received six successive applications of spinosad. We conclude that weekly spinosad treatments are not enough to prevent thrips injury to the cherries due to the low residual of spinosad and the highly dispersive nature of thrips.