

WESTERN FLOWER THRIPS

LIFE CYCLE, DAMAGE SYMPTOMS AND CONTROL



Life cycle is completed in 2 to 6 weeks depending on the temperatures. Up to 15 generations per year.

1 EGG

Kidney shaped translucent, laid in the plant tissues.



2 LARVA

From transparent white or yellowish to orange-yellow.



3 ADULT

Around 1 mm in length, yellow to light brown



4 PUPA

Prepupal and pupal instars can be recognized by their developing wing buds in the ground, leaves, flowers.



DAMAGE SYMPTOMS

Larvae and adults are sucking plant sap causing bud and fruit deformation and a range of leaf spots, scars, silvering and bronzing. Vector of important virus diseases (MYSV).



CONTROL

Blue sticky traps

Sanitation: Use screens to restrict the movement of the thrips in the greenhouse.

Biological control: predatory mites, predatory bugs (Orius), entomopathogenic nematodes and entomopathogenic fungi.