



POINSETTIA THRIPS

HAVE YOU SEEN THIS THRIPS?

The Ministry for Primary Industries, in partnership with industry is investigating the distribution of the Unwanted Organism, Poinsettia thrips (*Echinothrips americanus*), after detecting it in an Auckland greenhouse.

Your assistance is required to help us to determine if the Poinsettia thrips has spread in New Zealand.

The Poinsettia thrips is an emerging pest of greenhouse and nursery plants. Originating from eastern USA, it has spread through some parts of Europe and Asia, where it is considered a greenhouse pest.

In New Zealand, this thrips is not expected to survive outside of a heated environment – to date it has been found in only one Auckland greenhouse. However, given their small size, Poinsettia thrips may be present elsewhere.

IDENTIFICATION

Like other thrips, the Poinsettia thrips is small, adults grow to about 1.7mm in length. They are generally dark brown in colour, with visible redness between segments on the abdomen.

Larvae are mostly yellow and have bright red eyes. The segmented abdomen has a row of hairs present on each side.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

The thrips feed on leaf tissue and parts of the flower, with light spotting damage very similar to typical mite or thrips damage; the thrips are more common on the underside of leaves.

Feeding damage may result in injured tissue with a shrunken appearance; infested leaves may have numerous black marks on them that are faecal droppings of the thrips.

Additionally, if your facility uses sticky boards, these thrips may have been trapped and will need to be identified.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I SUSPECT I HAVE SEEN OR TRAPPED POINSETTIA THRIPS?

Call your industry sector/body representative or the MPI Exotic Pest and Disease hotline on **0800 80 99 66**. Collection of samples for identification will then be arranged.



Adult and larvae on leaf underside



Adult female



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