

Current Research Objectives

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Research topic: Horticultural psyllid management

Primary Research Objective(s):

- Repelling psyllids with particle films
- Coordinating psyllid management with flush

Research Goal:

- Reduce HLB infection using particle films that “camouflage” plants to prevent psyllid feeding
- Reduce HLB infection by manipulating the plant’s susceptible periods to better coordinate insecticide application

Outcomes to date:

We have found that:

- Particle films are more effective than foliar insecticides in reducing HLB infection.
- Adding specific colored dyes to particle films further reduces psyllid feeding and HLB infection.
- Particle films also increase photosynthesis and growth.
- Application of plant hormones can hasten or delay growth flushes, which effects the plant’s infection susceptibility.

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Some growers are now using commercially available particle films in their psyllid management. Commercial kaolin company is discussing possibility of using a dyed product to improve psyllid efficacy.

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