

2023 Citrus thrips season: Monitoring for spray applications and resistance management is key to controlling thrips

Citrus thrips, a small insect with fringed wings, is a common pest of citrus. Although present all year round, they are most damaging from late April-July when fruit is developing.



Citrus thrips adult (left), immatures (right)

Damage: Thrips attack leaves and the young (developing) fruit when epidermal cells are sensitive and cause scarring damage. Young fruits are most susceptible to citrus thrips damage. Fruit-sensitive period ranges from 6-10 weeks after petal fall.



Monitoring for citrus thrips

Monitor thrips populations and spray at some threshold. Threshold varies based on variety and growing season. Beginning of the season when fruit is susceptible, spray when 5-10% fruit is infested.

- Start at petal fall. Sample 100 fruit from a block, 2x per week.
- Sample outside/healthy green fruit by looking for immatures, first and second instars, at the base of fruit.
- Differentiate between citrus thrips and flower thrips immature. Flower thrips leave the orchard when flowers are no longer present.



Using a hand lens, look for thrips at the base of the fruit. Note presence/absence and calculate % infestation.

Citrus thrips Vs Flower thrips



	Citrus thrips	Flower thrips
Found on	Young leaves and fruit	Flower and nectar
Motion	Active	Sluggish, move in S pattern
Body	Short and plump, no hair on abdomen	Longer, cigar shaped with hairs

Managing Citrus Thrips - Best management practices for spray recommendations.

- Monitor and treat at a threshold.
- Timing is important – treat as the 1st instars are emerging.
- Avoid or delay resistance development by rotating different groups of insecticides.
- Target outside coverage and 200 GPA.
- Add oil or spreader 0.5-1%. Additive allows products to reach target better, reduce runoff, and improve rain resistance.

Some insecticides work better at high thrips pressure than others (next page)

Visit UCIPM Guidelines for [citrus thrips](#) for more information on management.

<u>Trade Name</u>	<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Pesticide</u>
<u>Class</u>		
Insecticides that work best when thrips pressure is heavy		
Exirel	Cyantraniliprole	28
Minecto Pro	Cyan. + abamectin	28+6
Beleaf	Flonicamid	29
Plinazolin*	Isocycloseram	30
Insecticides that work best when thrips pressure is light to moderate		
Entrust/Success	Spinosad	5
Delegate	Spinetoram	5
Agri-Mek	Abamectin	6
Movento	Spirotetramat	23
Veratran D + sugar	Sabadilla	botanical
PQZ*	Pyrifluquinazon	9B
Insecticides that have resistance to citrus thrips		
Carzol SP	Formetanate	1A
Cygon/Dimethoate	Dimethoate	1B
Baythroid XL	Beta cyfluthrin	3
Danitol 2.4 EC	Fenpropathrin	3
Delegate	Spinetoram	5
* Products not registered yet.		

Recent Arthropod management test publications on citrus thrips pesticide trials

[Citrus thrips trial, 2015](#)

[Citrus thrips trial, 2016](#)

[Citrus thrips trial, 2017](#)

[Citrus thrips trial, 2018](#)

[Citrus thrips trial, 2019](#)

[Citrus thrips trial, 2022](#)

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