



FICUS WHITEFLY

A New Pest in Arizona

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A new whitefly, the Ficus Whitefly (*Singhiella simplex*) has been recently reported in the Phoenix area infesting Ficus trees. It was first reported in the US in Florida (2007) and then in California (2012). To date the only known hosts are species of *Ficus*. The first symptoms on *Ficus* sp. are yellowing of foliage followed by leaf drop and possible defoliation. If plants become defoliated, people should not panic and start watering more which make trees more susceptible to disease organisms and/or delays regrowth. Defoliation likely would make the bark of trees prone to sunburn.

It is important to monitor for infestations. Control is more efficacious when populations are low. The recommended control products from Florida are neonicotinoid insecticides such as Clothianidin, Dinotefuron, Imidacloprid or Thiamethoxam. Recommendations are to apply these materials as a SOIL DRENCH rather than a foliar application. Currently, Dinotefuron and Imidacloprid are on the Arizona Groundwater Protection List. If these materials are “soil applied”, sites and quantities used should be reported to the Office of Pest Management or the Environmental Services Division of the Arizona

Department of Agriculture. Applications as a soil drench or trunk injection provides protection to predators. Predators likely offer the best option for control of these pests long term as was the case with Ash Whitefly. If foliar applications are necessary, recommendations from Florida are to use insecticides which are NOT neonicotinoids. Again, protect those predators if possible when making foliar application.

Please see the links below for more information on the pest. The University of Arizona is asking for help from the industry in tracking Ficus Whitefly in Arizona. Information obtained would likely help in development of a Arizona specific management plan. The University of Arizona links also provide information on specialists in Arizona working on the problem and a link to where the “sighting” survey can be found. **GET INFORMED AND GET INVOLVED!**

Information in this brief was developed from a number of different sources and does not in any way replace or supersede information on the pesticide product labeling. Always read and follow the label directions. Inclusion or exclusion of specific pesticides does not constitute an endorsement by PESTICIDE TRAINING RESOURCES.

Ficus Whitefly Management in the Landscape. 2010. University of Florida.

http://cissr.ucr.edu/pdf/ficus_whitefly_feb2010_fact_sheet.pdf

New Pest Arrival to the Phoenix Area, the Fig Whitefly. 2015. University of Arizona.

<http://extension.arizona.edu/new-pest-arrival-phoenix-area-fig-whitefly>

New Pest in Community Environments - Ficus White Fly. 2015. University of Arizona.

<http://cals.arizona.edu/apmc/ficuswhitefly.html>

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