

Western flower thrips – *Frankliniella occidentalis*

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Identification

Pronotum with 2 pairs of large setae on anterior margin. Ctenidia present on tergite VIII and it lies anterior to spiracle. Ocellar setae not arising within ocellar triangle. Body colour yellowish with darker tergal markings. Two complete rows of setae on veins of wings.

Symptoms in crop may include more thrips activity than usual, more thrips on other plants, increased presence of virus in crop and unsuccessful chemical control.



Known Hosts

More than 400 plant species including many vegetable and flower crops and many weed species. Preferred hosts include capsicums, lettuce and chrysanthemums.

Damage

Flecking, silvering or deformation of flowers, growing tips, young foliage, stems and fruit. Transmission of Tomato Spotted Wilt Virus (symptoms = ringspots, stunt, distortion, reduced yield)

Life Cycle

Adults can live 30-45 days and can produce 150 - 300 eggs. Life cycle can vary between 13 and 40 days dependent on temperature. Egg and pupal stages are hidden. In most parts of NSW they can exist outside year round.

Distribution

Sydney basin, Newcastle, Bowral, Canberra, Port Macquarie, Buronga, Jervis Bay

References

Hill, M. 1994. Western Flower Thrips. IHD, Knoxfield, Victoria.

Mound, L.A. and Gillespie, P.S. 1997. Identification Guide to Thrips associated with crops in Australia. NSW Agriculture, Orange NSW.

Further reading

Victorian Dept of Natural Resources and Environment, National Strategy for the control of Western Flower Thrips in Australia

Thrips information on the I&I NSW website (www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/horticulture/pests-diseases-hort/multiple/thrips)

For information on management and control, see:

- [Insecticide resistance management plan](#)
- [Western flower thrips and tomato spotted wilt virus](#)

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