THE FUTURE PROSPECTS FOR THE USE OF BENEFICIAL ORGANISMS IN ORNAMENTAL PLANT PRODUCTION IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ORNAMENTAL PRODUCTION

Outline of the Presentation

Successes in other areas

- **Examples from the other speakers**

Challenges

- **Experiences in SoCal**

Prospects

- **Start small**
- **Mites**

Examples from Speakers

- Graeme Murphy provides hope
- Canadian growers were forced into it
- Almost all greenhouses in Ontario now use IPM methods for pest control
- 80 to 90% use Biological Control
- Success in colder climates
  - Major pests can't survive the winter freeze

Examples from Speakers

- Lance Osborne also provides hope
- Forced into Biological Control due to heavy levels of insecticide resistance
- Biological Control can be challenging, but successes in mite control are obvious
- Mites are the major pests and key
- Banker plants work

Examples from Speakers

- Other speakers tie quality of the natural enemy to success
- Also shipping or environmental effects are also key
- Demonstration of how nematodes and other natural enemies can be killed during application

Examples from Speakers

- Grower experience (Christine and Jack)
- Christine “I don’t know why anyone would want to use pesticides anymore”
- Pesticide treadmill
- Now use IPM methods with strict monitoring program
- Jack “We are committed to using biological control in spite of the challenges.”

Challenges for Natural Enemies use in Ornamental Plant Production in CA

- SoCal has open systems (Florida?)
- Ours is not a cold climate like Canada
- Costly
- Most are shipped long distances
- Pest monitoring schedule is intensive
- Failures cause a loss of trust
- Poor quality
- Lack of support

Conclusions

- Hopefully we won't be forced into it
- Must demonstrate success
- Cooperate with experienced folks
- Hope lies in the experience of successful growers
- Surprise was a consistent expression by growers that use biological control, "It works!"