

MIDDLE TN NURSERY EXTENSION

nursery e-news



Figure 8. Damage to ornamental hibiscus by two-spot cotton leafhopper in Puerto Rico. Photo by Alondra Nieves, graduate student, UPRM, PR.



Figure 1. Adult two-spot cotton leafhopper. Photo by Daphne Zappala, USDA-APHIS-PPQ, Biological Science Laboratory Technician, Miami, FL.

TWO-SPOTTED COTTON LEAFHOPPER (*Amrasca biguttula*)

- This non-native leaf hopper has been spreading in FL and has been found in other states, including TN on hibiscus plants at a retail nursery in Cheatham County; aka cotton jassid or okra leafhopper.
- Adults are tiny, green and feed on the lower leaf surface by sucking out the cell contents; likely won't see insect but damage: 'hopperburn', wilting and curling of leaves
- They prefer cotton and okra but also feed on peanut, soybean, cowpea, species of *Hibiscus*, eggplant, sunflower and other plants
- They resemble potato leafhoppers (*Empoasca fabae*), but the dark spot at the end of each wing distinguishes them. If you think you have this pest, bag it and contact your TDA Inspector



Figure 9. Two-spot cotton leafhopper damage to okra in Florida, November 2024. *Aphis gossypii* Glover, the cotton aphid, is also present. Photo by Sajan KC, FDACS-DPI.

Photos from FL Pest Alert (link below)

[Cotton Jassid Pest Alert and Info](#)



COOL SEASON COVER CROPS

The window for sowing cool season cover crops is closing. Cool season cover crops are great for competing with weeds, preventing erosion, providing traction and stability for B&B digging, AND reducing trunk attacks by the flatheaded borer (*Chrysobothris* spp.). For more info on cover crops, contact Dr. Anthony Witcher: awitcher@tnstate.edu

JUNIPER WEBWORM (*Dichomeris marginella*)

[More info](#)

- The non-native Juniper webworm has 1 generation per year and was first reported in the US in 1910.
- In the fall, several larvae may be seen together surrounded by their webbing; they overwinter as immature caterpillars (photo at right).
- In early summer, as newly hatched larvae they feed inside leaves as leaf miners, so that damage may also be seen.
- Look for off-color leaves and pull apart branches to scout for webbing. Easily mistaken for spider mite damage; look for brown larvae and prune out.



Top Left: Juniper webworm webbing; Connecticut Ag Exp. Station, Bugwood.org



Juniper webworm webbing on 'Shore' juniper.



Juniper webworms on 'Shore' juniper.

Photo by J. R. Baker

Bottom photos: NC State Extension Publications

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TNGRO

We had a great time meeting people, seeing the booths and learning from the education sessions at TNGRO on Oct. 23rd & 24th!

Congratulations to the 2025 TNLA Award Winners:

- Floyd MacDonald Scholarship: Ashley Barrows
- Nurseryman of the Year (OTY): Beth Blankenship (Blankenship Farms & Nursery)
- Young Nursery Pro. OTY: Keith Youngblood (Youngblood Farms)
- "Bill" Reilly Jr. Salesman OTY: Dot Reilly (Cam Too Camellia Nursery)
- Landscape Contractor OTY: Willow Ridge Garden Center and Landscaping
- Green Goods Distributor OTY: Center Hill Nursery
- Committee Chair OTY: Dr. Midhula Gireesh (UT Central District Extension)
- Hall of Fame: Nick Gawel, Otis L. Floyd NRC 1997-2024
- Hall of Fame: Louree Walker, TNLA 1993-2024

Congrats to the Best of Show Winners!

- Green Goods
 1. Turner & Sons Nursery
 2. Easy Tree Nursery
 3. Warren County Nursery
- Hard Goods
 1. Barky Beaver Mulch & Soil
 2. Tri Green Equipment
 3. H&R Agri-Power Farm & Turf

Thank you, Danae and the TNLA Team, for organizing the event!

RECYCLE YOUR GH COVER!

- Bring us your greenhouse covers in the spring so we can recycle them
- No cost to you!
- We also lend you the roller to tightly & efficiently roll it
- Contact Josh Reed (Farm Manager) to reserve roller: 931-743-2363

DON'T ADD MORE PLASTIC TO LANDFILLS



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TSU's Otis L. Floyd Nursery Research Center

