

## Key Scouting Tips for the Q Whitefly, *Bemisia tabaci* in the Landscape.

Doug Caldwell July 5, 2016



Jeffrey W. Lotz, FDACS

than the greenhouse whitefly). Adults hold their wings vertically tilted, like a peaked roof (see picture to right). Other species hold their wings flat like an airplane. *Bemisia* has white wings (no dark markings) with a yellow body and thorax, and congregate on undersides of leaves.

### **3. Is sooty mold present?**

This whitefly produces honeydew and subsequent sooty mold, but the amount will probably be greatly reduced compared to the rugose spiraling whitefly.

### **4. Is white waxy material accumulating?**

No, lacks the white waxy fluff produced by some other species (such as rugose spiraling whitefly).

### **5. Plant damage symptoms:**

This relative of the silverleaf whitefly (SLW) may cause foliage damage such as stippling or mottling, which will appear as lighter or washed-out green areas.

### **6. Molecular Assay Identification is Required:**

Management strategies and updates are posted at:  
<http://mrec.ifas.ufl.edu/Iso/bemisia/bemisia.htm>

**Plant and whitefly samples should be collected in alcohol (see above link for details) and sent to:**

**Dr. Cindy McKenzie**, Research Entomologist  
US Horticultural Research Laboratory ARS-USDA  
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- See Youtube video on this: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hzMVNV6N3T8>

**1. Key Hosts:** Because it has been reported on over 900 host plants worldwide and about 300 in Florida, focus on these favorites: **hibiscus**, **crossandra** and **lantana** and also **euphorbia**, **verbena** and **mandevilla**.

### **2. Adult Whitefly Appearance:**

Adult *Bemisia* are small, 0.8 to 1.2 mm long (smaller



Lance Osborne



Symptoms of *Bemisia* whitefly feeding on Jamaican poinsettia, *Euphorbia punicea*.  
Photo: Lance Osborne, UF|IFAS