

Monterra Community Development District (CDD)

White Fly Overview:

All residents are well aware that South Florida is experiencing a significant infestation of White Fly and Spiral White Fly. The Monterra CDD employs the most effective and up to date practices as prescribed by the University of Florida, South Florida Extension Service horticulture professionals.

For details see: http://solutionsforyourlife.ufl.edu/hot_topics/agriculture/whiteflies.html

Monterra CDD Treatment Overview

FICUS - White Fly

Background:

1. White Fly has been devastating Ficus hedges all over South Florida for several years. The infestation causes leaf drop or defoliation and may result in total plant loss. The screening purpose of the hedge is diminished entirely in most cases leaving a very unattractive barren plants. A drive along Sheridan gives a distressing example of the extent to which hedge material in the area has been infested and in many cases destroyed miles of hedges.
2. Monterra Treatment includes regular spraying which applied topically, kills the fly and allows the Ficus to survive and in growing season maintain a high degree of leaf coverage. A root drench or systemic treatment puts the chemical into the plant for longer periods and has proven more effective but has slower results. In some conditions both treatment approaches are optimal.
3. Please note: Plants that are treated in cool/dry periods may be healthy but the stress of the white fly and slow growth conditions results in a prolonged barren look. All known cases in Monterra CDD property have been treated both topically and in many cases with a root drench or systemic treatment.

Long Term Program Options –

- A. Continue regular treatment of all ficus hedges and tolerate periods of defoliation until growth rates exceed loss.
- B. Replace Ficus species with suitable alternative. Expectations should be set understanding that most hedges such as “podocarpus” grow much slower and may never equal the shielding effect that a healthy Ficus hedge provides. Furthermore, the cost of a whole community replacement is not budgeted at this time and would likely result in assessment increases to residents. The CDD Board of Supervisors is considering the range of replacement costs versus benefit throughout the budget process.

Monterra CDD

Gumbo Limbo Tree or Spiral White Fly

For more detail:

<http://miamidade.ifas.ufl.edu/documents/Thegumbolimbospiralingwhiteflyfactsheet.pdf>

1. Background

Spiral White Fly has been infesting native Gumbo Limbo “Sunburn” trees all over South Florida for the past few years. The infestation causes leaf drop or defoliation and rarely results in total Gumbo Limbo tree loss unlike the previous white fly species.

The Spiral White Fly also infests an extensive list of plants and trees including coco plum, black olive trees, and surprisingly, many types of palms. Fortunately, only the Gumbo appears to suffer significant leaf loss. The primary nuisance of the Spiral White Fly is the deposit it makes on the plants leaves as well as a sticky “Honey Dew” drip. These annoyances make dealing with Spiral White Fly frustrating and costly impacting any effort to have a clean and enjoyable outdoor patio or pool area. Cars are also seeing paint damage from repeated “honey dew” exposure.

2. Monterra CDD Treatment:

Treatment by spraying is less practical for Gumbo Limbo trees and root drench does not perform effectively. A special, slow release injection “casing” system or systemic treatment puts the chemical into the tree for longer periods. A small diameter hole can be seen along the base of the Gumbo Trees. This casing is refilled on a regular basis to keep the tree resistant to the infestation. **Significant results are not witnessed for several months and longer in cool periods and flies are not expected to be fully eradicated. The numbers are reduced in quantity and forced to choose another host.** Field specialists can identify the need for additional treatment or alternate approaches.

Long Term Program Options –

- A. Continue regular treatment of all Gumbo Limbo and tolerate periods of defoliation until growth rates exceed loss. Replacements and new material will exclude Gumbo Limbo Trees.
- B. Furthermore the cost of a community-wide replacement is not budgeted at this time and would likely result in assessment increases to residents. The Board will be considering the range of replacement costs versus benefit throughout the budget process.
- C. Damage from Spiral White Fly to adjacent property and/or pool patio and/or car or other painted surfaces is not the responsibility of the CDD or the HOA. Regular wash downs will reduce the impact and potential for damage.

Treatment Conclusion:

Both White Fly treatment programs result in a cost effective solution to retain the best possible environment for the Monterra CDD. Indications are that the program will eventually reduce or displace the white fly infestations, but may not entirely eradicate the annoyance factors. On-going treatment and costs may be a permanent reality in our region. This species is likely to adapt and become resistant or infest other material that is prevalent in the area. The South Florida Extension is studying and releasing “best practices” on a regular basis and the CDD professional staff monitors this closely.