

April 13, 2015

A new pest arrival to the Phoenix area is causing damage and defoliation in Ficus trees. The Ficus or Fig Whitefly is an exotic, invasive pest insect that first arrived in the U.S. in FL in 2007. **We need your help in identifying the distribution of this new pest in AZ** by participating in an anonymous “sightings” survey available online here:
<http://goo.gl/forms/TZE12dDRm5>

Your information could help us understand the geographic and host range of this new whitefly and develop steps to prevent further damage. **Excellent, science-based guidance on the effective management of this insect is available from University of FL Extension.** (PDF attached and available at the following link):
http://cifr.ucr.edu/pdf/ficus_whitefly_feb2010_fact_sheet.pdf

The University of Arizona Cooperative Extension is working in partnership with your industry to collect this information and develop AZ-specific guidelines for addressing the problem. **The decision to intervene with a pesticide should be carefully considered.** FL recommends just one, very well timed soil application of a neonicotinoid insecticide like dinotefuran or imidacloprid for year-long management of this pest. Mixtures with other insecticides and foliar sprays are generally not necessary and counterproductive because of their negative impacts on beneficials and pest resistance.

For more information, please contact:

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