

## Agenda

- Welcome & attendees
- Themes identified from round-table
- Research priorities
- Minor use priorities

## Meeting Minutes, November 21, 2023

### Welcome from Bart Brusse

- Summary of the purpose of today's research meeting:
  - Looking for current topics/problems that we want to solve and we share
  - These are identified research priorities driven by the growers
  - This list can help drive the spending of money towards research when grants/opportunities become available
  - This list will be integrated with Flowers Canada to identify Research priorities for Ornamentals in their annual research priority setting exercise
  - The list is also used by OMAFRA to ensure that research priorities are captured in the OMAFRA-UofG Alliance call for proposals that is shared to the researchers at the University of Guelph

### Attendees:

Name	Nursery/Affiliation	Position	Attendance
Bart Brusse	Sheridan Nurseries	Grower Group Research Chair	Present
Nick Winkelmolten	Winkelmolten Nursery	Current Grower Group Chair	Present
Philip Pieper	Pieper Nursery	Elected Grower Group Co-chair	Present
Jeff Olsen	Brookdale Treeland Nursery	GG member/ LO board of directors	Present
Rob Vanderkruk	Connon Nursery	GG member	Present
Alex Verbinnen	Verbinnen's Nursery		Present
Ryan Munroe	NVK	Non-voting GG member (sub for Case)	Present
John Langendoen	Willowbrook Nurseries		Present
Dave Bergshoeff	Willowbrook Nurseries		Present
Michael Van Dongen	Van Dongen's		Present
Ben Kobes	Kobes Nurseries		Present
Gerwin Bouman	Stam Nurseries		Present
John Mantel	Islington Nurseries		Present
John Bakker	JC Bakker & Son's		Present
Christi Garneau	JB Landscape	GG member	Present
John Bisailon	JB Landscape		Present
James Somerville	Somerville Nurseries	GG member	Present (virtually)
Cassie Russell	OMAFRA	Non-member	Present
Jeanine West	Landscape Ontario	Grower Technical Analyst	Present for last hour

## Round Table Discussion

Some themes that came out of the discussions:

### ***Operational/Business Challenges:***

- Trying to anticipate **production & demand** is a challenge
  - o Boxwood: what do we do with it? Customers still want it!
  - o Matching consumer demand and supply to reduce waste
  - o What gets you the most dollar per acre: what do we need to grow?
- **Waste:**
  - o Liner costs has to be divided over the ones you actually sell vs. remove.
  - o Nurseries being more aware of their waste/mortality and causes
- **Labour:** Aging Staff /staff transitioning
  - o Key managers and even migrant staff are aging (50s/60s)
  - o Challenge motivating staff
  - o Hard to find/hire students
  - o More reliance on the migrant worker force
  - o One grower mentioned using a change management company, helped identify gaps, staff that were put into new opportunities and blossomed, etc.
- Increasing **bureaucracy issues** – dealing with Milton/Halton hills
  - o Importing soils, new rules and regulations
  - o Building more farm accommodations
  - o Hoop house challenges in Niagara
- **Increasing input costs** but not able to adjust prices
- Inventory management software
- Challenges with all the things we can't control (trucking, the weather, etc.)

### ***Plant Health challenges:***

- Red headed flea beetle – causing a lot of aesthetic damage in container plants
- Worries about Spotted lanternfly, more concerning than BTM because of broad host range and ease of movement
- Borers –could use more tools or other strategies.
- Verticillium wilt in fields
- Root rot from wet year
- Worries about strawberry blossom weevil (regulated pest, present in BC)
- Bad year for Japanese beetles this year

### ***Successes/Looking forward and continuing:***

- Implementing a lot of new equipment/automations

- Successes in new potting equipment and root pruning
- Spray automation
- LEAN management
- Establishing perennial ground covers for weed suppression.

### **Research Priority Document Review and Updates**

- The group discussed and voted on their list of top priority themes:

#### **Ranked Research Priorities:**

1. Cost of Production
  - o Labour
  - o Automation
2. Water Use
3. Pest Management
4. Marketing
5. Crop Nutrition & Soil Health
6. Waste Reduction & Sustainability (three Rs)
7. Root Zone Management
8. Education

- Cassie will work on adding the sub questions from previous years documents to this list and send the full document via email to the research chair to circulate to the GG for edits when ready
- All members are encouraged to review the document and provide comments and edits to Bart/Cassie

### **Pesticide Minor Use Priority Setting**

- Some changes were made to pest ranking, mainly in the entomology discipline.
- For brevity, only the top 10 priorities are being shown here for entomology and top 5 for pathology and weeds in the minutes summary.
- Only the top 3 go forward to National discussions.
- Cassie and Josh (OMAFRA) will work to identify potential solutions to put forward for the top priorities.
- Cassie will also be sharing the minor use priorities with CNLA to strategize with national priorities at the minor use meetings in March 2024

<b>Entomology</b>	<b>2021/2022 Rank</b>	<b>New Rank</b>	<b>Rationale</b>
Japanese Beetle – Adults – ( <i>Popillia japonica</i> )	1	1	Maintained
Spotted Lanternfly ( <i>Lycorma delicatula</i> )	2	2	Maintained – need better products registered
Strawberry blossom weevil ( <i>Anthonomus rubi</i> )	-	3	Invasive species in BC, no registered tools, must be ready for it's arrival. BC likely to support.
Box Tree Moth ( <i>Cydalima perspectalis</i> )	4	4	Deltagard to receive full label soon, may pursue other channels for another EUR
Red-headed flea beetle ( <i>Syntena frontalis</i> )	5	5	Maintained – continues to cause significant visual damage
Borers (various)	9	6	Elevated – more issues. Rimon only tool for PTB
Leafhoppers ( <i>Empoasca fabae</i> )	6	7	Maintained – need longer residual chemistry
Hemlock woolly adelgid ( <i>Adelges tsugae</i> )	7	8	Maintained – continues to spread through SW Ontario, but Hemlock is not a large market
Spongy Moth ( <i>Lymantria dispar dispar</i> )	8	9	Maintained
Black vine weevil, strawberry root weevil ( <i>Otiorhynchus sulcatus</i> , <i>O. ovatus</i> )	3	10	Dropped down to make room for strawberry blossom weevil. Growers are getting decent control of BVW.

<b>Pathology</b>	<b>2021/2022 Rank</b>	<b>New Rank</b>	<b>Rationale</b>
Nematodes ( <i>Pratylenchus spp.</i> , <i>Meloidigyne spp.</i> )	1	1	Maintained: unclear what pressure this is causing, will revisit next year when we have more time
Oak Wilt ( <i>Ceratocystis fagacearum</i> )	2	2	Maintained
Powdery Mildew ( <i>Podosphaera spp.</i> , <i>Erysiphe spp.</i> )	3	3	Maintained
Downy Mildew ( <i>Peronospora spp.</i> )	4	4	Maintained
Grey Mold ( <i>Botrytis cinerea</i> )	5	6	Maintained – need options for storage, revisit next year

<b>Weeds</b>	<b>2021/2022 Rank</b>	<b>New Rank</b>	<b>Rationale</b>
Bittercress ( <i>Cardamine hirsute</i> )	1	1	Maintained
Liverwort ( <i>Marchantia polymorpha</i> )	2	2	Maintained
Chickweed ( <i>Stellaria media</i> )	3	3	Maintained
Rough horsetail ( <i>Equisetum hyemale</i> )	8	4	Elevated per GG requests
Fleabane ( <i>Conyza canadensis</i> )	5	5	Maintained