



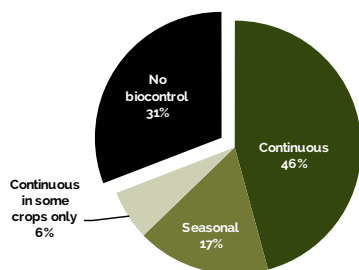
Biocontrol Use in Ontario Ornamental Greenhouses

Overall Biocontrol Use

The majority (69%) of ornamental growers in Ontario are using biological control to manage pests.

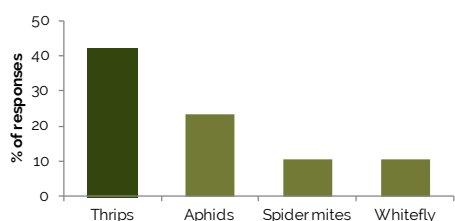
75% of biocontrol users are using it from start to finish in their operation in some or all crops, while the other 25% are using biocontrol seasonally.

Almost half (45%) of biocontrol users are also using biocontrol to manage plant diseases.



Primary Pest Challenges

Thrips continue to be a driving force behind biocontrol adoption. Resistant to most of the registered pesticides in Canada, biological control research is essential to allow growers to effectively manage this pest.



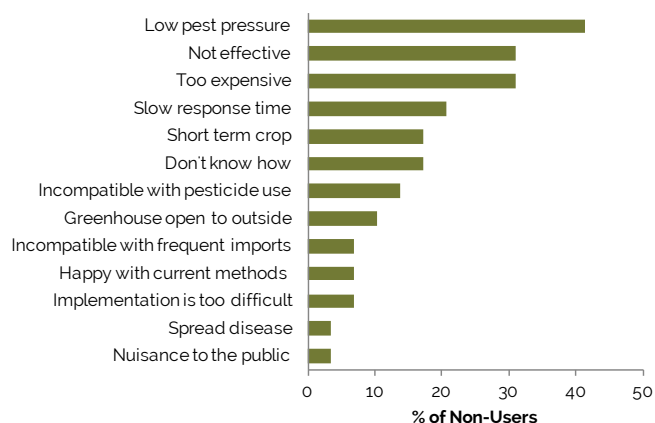
Barriers to Biocontrol Use

Over 40% of growers who did not use biocontrol are growing crops for which pest pressure is generally low.

Among non-users, there is a perception that biocontrol is less effective than conventional control methods. Greater knowledge transfer on implementation of biocontrol strategies is vital to promote wider uptake.

The presence of insect pests on imported cuttings is a major barrier to adoption of biocontrol. If unchecked, pest populations can rapidly increase and biocontrol agents cannot keep up.

New research on preventative techniques to manage these hitchhikers will give the advantage back to the bios – and growers.



Source: Summerfield & Grygorczyk 2014, Vineland Research & Innovation Centre, Unpublished Data

