

WFT it infests a wide range of plants, transmits viruses, and can resist many insecticides after repeated exposure to them.

Glasshouse whitefly looks very like Bemisia white fly. Glasshouse white fly is widespread in Tasmanian glasshouses and in the field on the mainland, while the other white fly is absent in Tasmania but widespread in warmer mainland areas.

Control of breeding sites and restricting access to glasshouse is important in white fly control. There are very few insecticides registered for whitefly control so they need to be given the best chance by preliminary hygiene measures.

Fog in Propagation: My Personal Experiences

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Use of fogging in propagation was "state of the art" 10 years ago when we first installed our system. The system we installed, called Microcool™, was manufactured in the U.S.A. It was purchased via a Melbourne company. This paper presents some of the strengths and weaknesses I have observed in this fogging system over time. My propagation experience prior to the installation was zero, so I am limited in my ability to compare fogging to misting.

Our set up involves six separately insulated, thermostatically heated benches. The fog is very fine, about 5-micron droplets, and is activated by a relative humidity (RH) control box. A wet/dry bulb acts as the sensor. The whole glasshouse is covered with a retractable shade cloth cover which we use in the hotter months. Normally RH is set at 80%.

Generally, I am happy with the system. It does allow for use of very soft tip cutting material, even in summer. The cutting medium doesn't stay excessively wet and we operate virtually organically, without use of fungicides. Little maintenance of the system has been required and it operates fairly automatically. Because of the fine nature of the fog, staff can work inside the house without having to turn the unit off.

The main problem that we had initially was hardware, specifically getting parts from the U.S. and noncompatibility of electricity supply. Although the local (Melbourne-based) agent was very supportive in their post sales service, I would recommend buying Australian made equipment if possible. Of an ongoing nature, drying out of the propagation medium from the base is a problem, we have to be very vigilant to prevent drying out of propagation media from the base. To overcome this some daily overhead watering is required. Uneven fog distribution means that cutting placement is something of an art, i.e., very soft cuttings go in the foggiest places! Regular checking of the wet bulb wick and filling up the wet bulb with rainwater is needed. Greater ventilation would also assist the operation of our house.