

## WHITEFLY NOTIFICATION TO RESIDENTS: PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

JUNE 2011

The June 7<sup>th</sup> Rugose Spiraling Whitefly Workshop was a success! The slide show presentation by Dr. Catharine Mannion from the University of Florida is now available online as a PDF (see News Article on Village home page) for viewing and printing.

Furthermore, Channel 77 is visiting Dr. Mannion's laboratory where she will be interviewed with the most frequently asked questions. This program will be aired within ten days and will also be available to view on the Village's website.

On November 2010 the Village began treating the whitefly on all Gumbo Limbos on the right of way (where the pest first originated). Since then, both foliar spray and systemic root treatments have continued to be applied in additional hot spots identified and on an additional variety of trees/palms in the right of way.

According to Dr. Mannion, the key words right now are management and control, not eradication.

Her research shows that systemic treatments (to the root system or trunk) using a neonicotinoid chemical class insecticide are more effective for long-term control than foliar spraying. Systemic treatments should be applied no more than twice a year.

During the June 14<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting discussion on whitefly, a course of further action was requested. On June 28<sup>th</sup>, we will present to Council a systemic root drenching proposal for the Village trees in the right of way, identified in the highest infested areas.

Foliar spraying will manage the worst situations by killing the adults on contact. It will not kill the early remaining stages of this particular whitefly since they are well protected by the sticky substance called honeydew which acts as a shield (a protective covering). A second spraying must be done once the cycle starts again in approximately 20 days. Do note that over-spraying is detrimental for long-term effect since it will also eradicate the parasitoids and predators feeding on this particular whitefly. Nature's control seems to be the only long term solution.

Every resident will need to take steps for his or her own plants. Various suggestions what to do are at the Village website. For vegetation accessible via hose, the spraying of a water-plant soap solution (and even just water) will knock off all the stages of this whitefly. Various residents have noted this seems to maintain the population down in their foliage.

We invite you to visit the Village's website, [www.keybiscayne.fl.gov](http://www.keybiscayne.fl.gov), for much useful information. Again, please look for the systemic application of neonicotinoid chemicals that seem to be the most effective in controlling the Rugose Spiraling Whitefly and are the least harmful to beneficial insects.

We hope this information is helpful.