

Internodes

XenoNET

Biological control on the Web

So, you say your favorite filth is infested with filth flies? Is your greenhouse so loaded with *Lygus* bugs that your specimen plants are withering away? What's to be done, especially if you'd like to avoid using chemical control methods? Sounds like biological control's for you. And there's more to biological control than you might think. Many question the soundness of biological control, some argue its effectiveness, and others may just want to try and save their filth. A little bit of surfing may well settle all these issues.

Several websites might need visiting before you'll be able care and feed for some biological controls like filth fly parasites or pathogens of *Lygus* bugs. The National Biological Control Institute is run by USDA and their website (www.aphis.usda.gov/nbci./noci.html) provides some general information on biological control. Most of its information, though, has to do with the agency, their mission, etc., not biological control itself. But it does provide links to sites that truly inform about the subject.

If you want to be theoretical, the website (www.ruwpa.st-and.ac.uk/projects/other/locust.html) of the applied mathematicians at St. Andrews University (Scotland) offer things like spatially-modeled grasshopper patho-

gen interactions. Their model illustrates what might happen when a biocontrol agent induces change in the population of a pest. Their work illustrates population interactions and the complexities affecting whether biocontrol initiatives will succeed.

Sometimes websites disappoint, like one maintained by the Association of Natural Biocontrol Producers (www.anbp.org). It provides only thumbnails sketches of biological control information and doesn't really live up to its stated intent of sharing producers of natural biocontrols in the marketplace. When you click on the "hotspots" for sources of specific control agents, none appear for any of the agents listed. Maybe the site is simply under development.

So, government websites sometimes lose their focus, private sector sites may not have resources available to construct a really complete website. Yet, biological control is really well represented by at least one website, called the Biological Control Virtual ~formation Center (lpmwww.ncsu.edu/biocontrol/biocontrol.html). Entomologists and others at North Carolina State University took the time to provide very instructive text on wide-ranging examples of biocontrol along with links to other useful biocontrol sites.

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Mark Your Calendar

Third International Weed Science Congress. Foz do Iguassu, Parana, Brazil. **June 6-11, 2000.** Contact: P. J. Eventos 55/41/372-1177, pj@datasoft.com.br.

International Meeting for the Society of Conservation Biology. University of Montana, Missoula. **June 9-12, 2000.** Contact Fred Allendorf 406/243-4184, darwin@seaway.umt.edu, www.umt.edu/scb2000.

The Urban Forestry Institute: The Wildland-Urban Interface, Balancing Growth with Natural Resource Management and Conservation. The Plaza Hotel, Daytona Beach, FL. **June 25-30, 2000.** Contact: Mary Vuryea 352/846-0896, mld@gnv.ifas.ufl.edu.

40th Annual and International Meeting, Aquatic Plant Management Society. Hanclerly Hotel and Resort, San Diego CA. **July 16-20, 2000.** Contact Jim Schmidt 800/5585106, jimschmidt@appliedbiocomchemists.com.

American Society of Horticultural Scientists, Building a Bright Future for Horticulture. Coronado Springs Resort, Orlando FL. **July 23-26, 2000.** Contact: www.asks.org

85th Annual Meeting of the Ecological Society of America. Snowbird Utah. **August 6-10, 2000.** Contact ESA 202/833-8773, esahq@esa.org.

International Conference of the Society for Ecological Restoration. Liverpool England. **September 4-9, 2000.** Contact: SER 608/265-8557, ser@macc.wisc.edu, www.ser.org.

27th Annual Natural Areas Conference. Regal Riverfront Hotel, St. Louis, MO. **October 16-20, 2000.**