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Michigan's 4th Organic Food and Farming Reporting Session
Friday March 4, 2011
Kellogg Conference Center in East Lansing, MI
1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.
Sponsored by Michigan State University

Registration for Organic Posters by Graduate Students

Posters will be limited to 46" length x 46" width. These posters can be on past or on-going research or outreach that includes organic agriculture production and marketing systems.

This Application is due by ***February 17, 2011*** at 5:00 p.m. Send a PDF of your poster to include in the compendium by ***February 17, 2011***.

Name Emily Pochubay
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Poster Title Improving the use of biological control agents for thrips management in greenhouses

Which category does this information represent? Please √

	Organic Animal Management		Organic Fruit		Organic Soil Health
	Organic Field Crops		Organic Marketing	√	Organic Vegetables
	Community Engagement		Outreach Programming		Economics

Please submit this completed application by ***February 17, 2011***.
Please submit a PDF of your poster no later than ***February 24, 2011.*** Email complete application to sorrone@msu.edu.
For questions call Vicki at (517) 353-3542 or (517) 282-3557.

Abstracts: (300 Words or Less) Include Title & Author(s)

Title: Improving the use of biological control agents for thrips management in greenhouses
Authors: Emily A. Pochubay and Matt J. Grieshop

Abstract: Amblyseuis cucumeris is a predatory mite commonly used in greenhouses to manage thrips in the plant canopy. This mite is typically released by sprinkling a bran mixture that contains A. cucumeris and fungus mites, an alternate food source for A. cucumeris, onto greenhouse plants and soil. More recently this technique has been modified into the breeder pile method where small regularly spaced piles of the mite-bran mixture are placed onto soil surfaces. These piles serve as local population centers of the mite and reduce the number of applications needed. However, placing these breeder piles on the soil surface increases the likelihood for predation on A. cucumeris by soil-dwelling biological control agents thus potentially reducing the thrips management intended by A. cucumeris breeder pile use. This poster outlines an experiment that assessed the impact that two soil-dwelling thrips and fungus gnat biological control agents, Hypoaspis miles and Atheta coriaria, have on A. cucumeris populations in breeder piles. Results show that H. miles and A. coriaria have a negative impact on A. cucumeris populations in the breeder piles and suggest less effective thrips management when breeder piles are used where H. miles and A. coriaria are present. A better understanding of the interactions among these predators provides growers with the knowledge necessary to maximize pest suppression and minimize costs.