

Thrips parvispinus

Injury on pepper

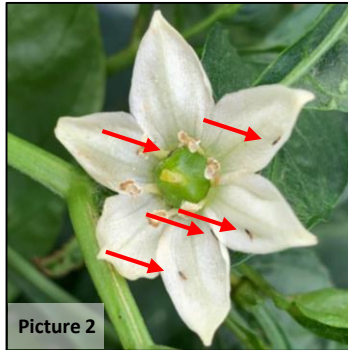
Thrips parvispinus is an invasive polyphagous thrips that affects the production of vegetables and ornamentals. It was first detected in the continental U.S. in Orange County, Florida, in 2020, on ornamentals. In November 2022, it was reported in commercial pepper fields for the first time in Palm Beach County.

The females have a yellowish-brown thorax and a black or dark brown abdomen (Picture 1). All life stages can feed and cause damage on all parts of pepper plants including flowers and fruits (Pictures 2-3). On young plants, thrips feeding can cause significant leaf and bud damage. The distorted leaves and flower buds resemble injury caused by broad mites (Picture 4), thus scouting to confirm a *T. parvispinus* is important.



Picture 1

Thrips parvispinus female adult on a pepper leaf.



Picture 2

Thrips parvispinus female adults on a pepper flower.



Picture 3

Thrips parvispinus feeding injury on a pepper fruit.



Picture 4

Thrips parvispinus feeding injury on a young pepper plant.

Thrips parvispinus

Scouting in pepper

On young pepper plants (Picture 5), check the growing point for adults and larvae in leaf folds (Picture 6). As the plants develop, monitor auxiliary and terminal buds. Later on, also scout the lower portion of the canopy looking for injury on the underside of the leaves (Picture 7) and for adults (Picture 8) and larvae. *T. parvispinus* females and males differ in their size and color. The males are yellowish and smaller than the females (Picture 8).

If you suspect *T. parvispinus* in your vegetable fields, contact your local extension agent or the authors of this fact sheet.



Picture 5

Newly transplanted pepper seedling.



Picture 6

T. parvispinus adults feeding on terminal bud in leaf fold.



Picture 7

T. parvispinus injury on the underside of a pepper leaf.



Picture 8

T. parvispinus adult female (right) and male (left).