



Announcements

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Job offers

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- Commercial Director - Netherlands
- Export Sales Manager - United Kingdom
- Purchaser/buyer for fruits and vegetables in Germany
- Herbs Production Senior Officer – Abu Dhabi, UAE
- Ripener - Australia
- Location manager - Senegal
- Chief Grower (urgent) - Kazakhstan
- Lecturer Sustainable Horticulture - Netherlands
- Estimator - Australia
- Controls Technician - Australia

Tweeting Growers

-  **SUNSET® Produce** 5h 

@sunsetgrown

These yellow fellows basically fill you up with super powers. Youth. Energy. Life. Om. #YELO
[ow.ly/q6syY](#)
-  **Windset Farms** 7h

@WindsetFarms

Pair each iron-packed food with one rich in Vitamin C. It helps you better absorb this precious mineral (Recipe: [ow.ly/q9uO7](#))
-  **SUNSET® Produce** 7h 

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Top 5 - yesterday

- Another large Dutch grower goes bankrupt
- Chinese greenhouse acreage about to hit 1 million hectares
- Mass trapping proves effective in many crops
- UrbanHarvest Selects LumiGrow LED Technology

using beneficial insects in IPM made easy:

Viridaxis now provides catch-all solution to aphids

With the aim of providing more viable options for growers who want to utilize Integrated Pest Management solutions, Viridaxis has developed beneficial insects that can neutralize a wide variety of aphids. Their approach has shown success in trials with several crops in many climates, and they're looking to expand their approach in the future.

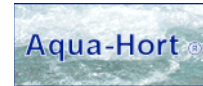
Viola Rosemeyer, sales manager for Viridaxis, explained that their products utilize parasitoid wasps to control aphid populations in greenhouses. "The wasps are released in a greenhouse and seek aphids in which to lay their eggs. During their development inside the aphids, the parasitoids kill the aphid. Then, the new generation of wasps hatches and seeks out more aphids to continue their life cycle and, in the process, fight all aphids in the greenhouse". Rosemeyer noted that when Viridaxis was founded a decade ago, many similar products were offered. But the thing that distinguishes them from their competitors is the way they produce their wasps in a plant-less process and the easy to use XxxProtect system.



"We have a patented process that allows us to produce beneficial insects of the same quality on a year-round basis," said Rosemeyer. "While the lead time for other suppliers might be between four and six weeks, we're much more flexible." That allows them to respond quickly to changes in aphid populations, which can fluctuate according to the weather. Another advantage to their approach is that they produce a variety of wasps. Normally, if a grower wants to take care of an aphid problem with beneficial insects, he first needs to identify the exact type of aphid present, something which only a specialist can do. Viridaxis, instead of producing different wasps for different aphids, includes several varieties of wasps in their products, so that the cocktail of beneficial insects is enough to take out any aphid present.



"We wanted to take the difficult identification step out of the process," said Rosemeyer. "So our different beneficial insects species are sure to take care of all manner of aphids, irrespective of the aphid or climate." 5 years worth of experience at research stations and from commercial growers have shown that their cocktail of six parasitoid wasps has been successful in controlling aphid populations in greenhouses that grow soft fruit, vegetables, herbs and ornamental plants. Their FresaProtect, BerryProtect, VerdaProtect, BasilProtect and OrnaProtect products have also been successful in several kinds of climates. "Commercial growers use these products with great success, and their number is growing rapidly", Rosemeyer added.

**PHILIPS**

- Local growers provide Tommies cultivation in Mexico and US

Top 5 - last week

- Another large Dutch grower goes bankrupt
- EU: Biobest launches new predatory mite strategy in rose
- Viridaxis now provides catch-all solution to aphids
- UK: Flavourfresh Salads wins big at 8th Tastiest Tomato Competition
- Canada: Greenhouse light pollution possible threat for plane traffic

Top 5 - last month

- "No more horticulture in the Netherlands in twenty years"
- UK: Photo report British Tomato Conference
- Photo report Horti Vienna 2013
- Guatemala: Seeds of Tomorrow greenhouse officially opened, up and running
- Organic ionic fertilizer aims to put flavor back in hydroponic food

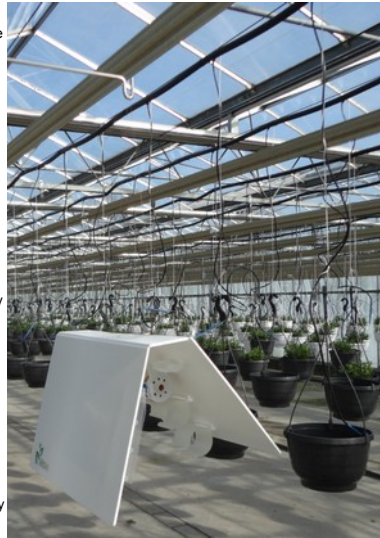
Exchange rates [more »](#)

- USD: 1.3805
- JPY: 134.32
- GBP: 0.85370
- AUD: 1.4354
- BRL: 3.0346
- CAD: 1.4358
- CNY: 8.3998
- NZD: 1.6503
- ZAR: 13.4828

Euro foreign exchange reference rates
Source: ECB



"We made our system as simple and efficient as possible, because the aim to reduce the use of chemicals in controlling pests is not always the easy way. Hence, we were looking for an easy approach to IPM for growers." Developing such a product, however, didn't come without its share of challenges. Even after identifying and breeding all the wasps necessary to control every aphid that could be encountered by a grower, Viridaxis still had to come up with an effective delivery system for the beneficial insects.



"We really needed to make a good home for the wasps," said Rosemeyer. "We found that carton tubes were the best in terms of respiration and temperature control." Honey was added to ensure the wasps had enough food to keep them healthy and vigorous when released.

These tubes are clipped to a roof, which protects them from direct sunshine and overhead water and is hung by a fine nylon string to the structure of the greenhouse to prevent ants from attacking. Each tube can now deliver enough wasps to cover 200 square meters of greenhouse, and Rosemeyer said that the concept has been received well enough that they might expand into unprotected growing in the future.



"When we commercialized this product, we had reactions that told us this works well and that we should expand this," said Rosemeyer. "So we fast-tracked development of this, and our midterm development strategy is to go into open-field crops, focusing on our core business, which is aphid control."

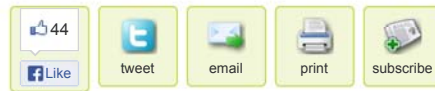
Visit Viridaxis at booth **C5.25 at the IHTF** show, held from 6 to 8 November 2013 at Expo Haarlemmermeer in Vijfhuizen, the Netherlands.

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Other news in this sector:

- 10/24/2013 Mass trapping proves effective in many crops
- 10/24/2013 US: NNY Grower tests Alfalfa Beetle-busting biocontrol to protect strawberry crop
- 10/24/2013 US (OR): OSU updates resources for protecting bees from pesticides
- 10/24/2013 Nutrimite demonstration for Dutch ornamental growers
- 10/24/2013 Spain: Researchers develop organic control system against nematodes
- 10/18/2013 EU: Biobest launches new predatory mite strategy in rose
- 10/17/2013 Agritechnica 2013: Lechler to present co-developed with Syngenta pre emerge nozzles to present co-developed with Syngenta pre emerge nozzles
- 10/17/2013 EU: Less money spent on crop protection research
- 10/17/2013 UK: Soft fruit research revealed at EMRA and HDC event
- 10/17/2013 Spain: Agrobio seeking solutions for leaf curl in courgettes
- 10/16/2013 Polish grower positive about wound dressing to fight botrytis in tomato
- 10/16/2013 Poultry effective against weeds in organic greenhouse
- 10/14/2013 US (NJ): Angular Leaf Spot in fall transplanted-strawberries
- 10/14/2013 US: MSU tips to better control Pythium root rot in your greenhouse
- 10/14/2013 US(CA): New organic product available to prevent Botrytis in grape and berry production
- 10/9/2013 How an aggressive fungal pathogen causes mold in fruits and vegetables
- 10/9/2013 Overflowing greenhouse gutters can cause damage to crops
- 10/9/2013 New fears about EC pesticide bans
- 10/7/2013 European growers can apply for compensation in case of pest outbreak
- 10/4/2013 US (OH): Intelligent sprayer can reduce pesticide use