

Insectary Plantings – Scale Considerations

Why Scale is Important

It is generally difficult to tell if insectary plantings are influencing the *overall abundance* versus the *redistribution* of a given natural enemy population in a given situation.

But it is still necessary to know what the potential zone of influence of an insectary planting may be, relative to the zone for the target pest.

Consideration of the dispersal and foraging abilities of each natural enemy type, relative to pest location and insectary resources already present in the landscape, can help guide the placement of insectary plantings.

Varying Dispersal Abilities

The **maximum** potential dispersal and foraging ranges around an area with crop pests can vary for the adult stage of different natural enemies:



Photos are from the collections of Ken Gray and Nigel Cattin

Inner 2 zones

Middle 2 zones

Outer zone and beyond

