

# PyBo Technical Report

CROP	Tomatoes
PESTS	Whiteflies

**DATE:** December 2001

**PRODUCER:** Arthur Smith      Bangalow

**DISTRICT:** North Coast NSW

This report could well be written about any insect or mite pest found in glasshouses or 'igloos'.

**CROP STAGE:** Tomatoes were being planted a couple of weeks apart. The youngest were flowering, the oldest almost ready to pick. Housed in an 'igloo' about 60 metres square

**PEST PROBLEM:** The Whiteflies were 15-20 per sq cm on the undersides of the worst affected leaves. Touching the plants made swarms to rise around you. The more mature plants were carrying fruit only half the size of plants the same age growing just outside the igloo.

**LIKELY HARVEST PROSPECTS:** Arthur was despairing of keeping the igloo going for crop production and had pulled out 2 older rows because they were not worth harvesting. Lettuce were also about half size.

**PILOT TEST:** Wed 21st November 2001 Temp 25C Light cloud.

**PEST NUMBERS** There were 15-20 insects/sq cm on the undersides of leaves

**EQUIPMENT:** 9 litre backpack

**DILUTION & APPLICATION RATE:** A thorough spray was done @ 1ml/L. Insects were definitely effected and dead within a few minutes. Because whiteflies were throughout the igloo including walls and on the ground, once the hand spraying was done, the tractor-mounted orchard blower was brought in to disperse Py-Bo to the whole airspace... At 1ml/litre.

**ASSESSMENT:** Next day the whitefly population was almost gone. A further spray has eliminated the pests.

**THE DOLLARS:** The purpose of the igloo was to enable Arthur to produce tomatoes all year round for his own tomato-based product manufacture. The inability to control the whitefly put the dollars already spent on the whole project in jeopardy. For less than \$50 worth of Py-Bo, the situation has turned around and the whitefly were controlled.

**SUMMARY:** Arthur is a conventional grower, not organic, so he could have chosen any insecticide he was prepared to buy and use. He had in fact tried some of the synthetic pyrethroids before using the Natural pyrethrum product synergised with piperonyl butoxide. He has since bought 5 litre packs for use on his open grown crops of tomatoes, avocados, custard apples and other vegetables.

There will be a series of these. You may wish to file them in a ring binder with your other technical stuff.

