Insecticides are commonly used to control thrips in floriculture however effectiveness varies by active ingredient. One of the greatest risks of insecticide use is pesticide resistance.

Insecticides can be ‘classified’ as:
• Systemic insecticides which can move into plant tissues and be transported throughout the canopy.
  • When drenched, systemic insecticides can protect leaves not flowers.
• Translaminar insecticides can move into plant tissues, but are localized to the treated tissues.
• Contact insecticides have to be in direct contact with thrips to kill.

Insecticide Resistance and Mitigation
• Western flower thrips is known to develop insecticide resistance quickly.
• To delay or mitigate insecticide resistance,
  • Use insecticides only when necessary.
  • Rotate insecticides among different modes of action or Insecticide Resistance Action Committee (IRAC) Group Numbers.
  • Combine cultural, biological, and chemical control measures.

Rotate Insecticides
• Follow these simple guidelines for rotating insecticides against thrips:
  • Rotate among different modes of action or IRAC numbers, not among different chemical classes or IRAC letters, or product names.
  • If spraying weekly, rotate to a different IRAC number after two sprays.
• Examples of right (✔) and wrong (✘) rotation programs:
  ✔ Acetamiprid (4A) ➔ Spinosad (5) ➔ Abamectin (6)
  ✘ Acetamiprid (4A) ➔ Flupyradifurone (4D) ➔ Abamectin (6)

Protecting Flowers
• Foliar sprays are the main method of protecting flowers.
• Protection is limited to flowers that are opened at the time of the application.
• Residual efficacy of insecticides against thrips are poor, thus, not enough to protect flowers for a long time.
• Repeated foliar spray applications are required to protect flowers through the production cycle.