

## PAINT YOUR EXHAUST FANS YELLOW?

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Yellow sticky boards have proven effective in attracting and trapping whiteflies. Why not paint exhaust fans and housings yellow? Any whiteflies attracted to the air stream should be whisked away--outside the greenhouse.

Controlling whiteflies with sticky yellow cards has proven to be a partial remedy. Cards must be spaced relatively close together and, even then, do not provide complete control. However, yellow cards are most helpful in detecting whiteflies before an infestation might otherwise be noticed. Not only whiteflies are attracted to yellow. Geiger News (16(5), 12/80) lists "aphids, fungus gnats, whiteflies, leaf miner flies, carrot rust flies, gypsy moths, thrips and many others."

But most of these insects are near-sighted. They are only attracted from perhaps a meter away. And the color of yellow has to be just right. One paint commonly available is Rustoleum 659. Someday we may have sex attractants to apply to the sticky boards along with the yellow color.

Suppose that your fans and housings are becoming unsightly with age. Keeping your greenhouse neat and clean is always desirable. If paint is going to be used, why not use yellow? It might attract a few of the critters.

And why not paint intake louvers and the area around them aluminum? Reflective mulch under some crops will repel aphids. This is a long shot that probably has no validity since it hasn't been suggested. It should be used in conjunction with a weed-free area a meter wide around your greenhouse provided by mowing or treating with nonvolatile herbicides such as diquat, glyphosate, paraquat and simazine.