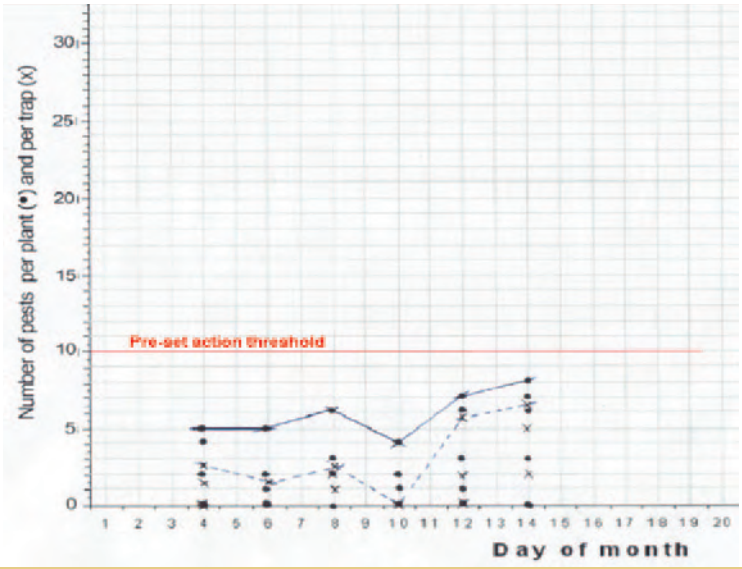
Use action points for making decisions

An action point (or threshold) is the level of pests or disease at which point you implement an active treatment strategy. These are set points that you use to make decisions about what, if any, management action you need to take.

There are different ways that you can use to describe an action point. You also need to plan what the action will be before you plant your crop.

You need to be able to adjust action points as you gather information from your crop.

The more accurate your action point, the more cost effective your management of pests and diseases will be.



Action points (thresholds) are a guide as to when to act.

Example action point plan

Pest	Action point (threshold)	Action
X	10 on a plant	release preventative numbers of *predatory insect A* check an extra 12 plants in the greenhouse
	15 on 5 plants	apply a whole crop application of *insecticide B*
Y	8 on a plant	apply a spot application of *insecticide D* on target plant and surrounding plants
	15 on 5 plants	apply a whole crop application of *insecticide B*
Disease		
Z	10 plants infected	apply a whole crop application of *fungicide E*

By preplanning action points and treatments, a NSW cucumber grower has reported that he has been able to reduce his action point for whiteflies (now tolerating a higher number before spraying) and this has saved 3 sprays in a crop without affecting yield.

This **Preventing pests and diseases in the greenhouse** fact sheet is part of a series designed to show how simple low cost changes around the greenhouse can significantly reduce costs and losses from pests and diseases.

For more information please refer to the growers' guidelines "Keep it Clean" published by NSW Department of Primary Industries or go online: www.dpi.nsw.gov.au

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