



The Ohio State University Extension Vegetable Crops

Volume 20. Number 6. May 31, 2013. On the WEB at: <http://vegnet.osu.edu>

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Dr. Bob Precheur, who has served vegetable growers in Ohio for almost three decades, retired April 30th. Perhaps most known for his work in bell pepper, sweet corn, and pumpkin evaluation trials, Bob also had a passion for creating electronic publications of many popular reports and creating video updates with the help of other specialists on current vegetable topics. Bob was also editor in chief of the Ohio Vegetable Production Guide as well as the main VegNet website and newsletter editor, so be patient with us as we learn the ropes of updating the website and distributing the newsletter. Bob's vegetable knowledge and expertise will surely be missed; best wishes in retirement from your colleagues at OSU and the growers you served!

Southern Ohio VegNet Report - *Brad Bergefurd, OSU Extension & South Centers at Piketon*

High tunnel tomato harvest is in full swing with wholesale auction prices up to \$4 a pound. Harvest of snap and shell peas is in full swing as is harvest of lettuce, mustard greens, green onions, radishes, spinach, basil, arugula, chives, garlic scapes and other spring greens. Plastics culture strawberry harvest which began the week of May 10 has reached its peak this week (5/30) whereas matted row strawberry

harvest has just begun this week.

Vegetable planting continues on schedule with rainfall amounts reduced to a quart of an inch or less over the holiday weekend for most areas. From May 6 through the 27th it rained almost every other day in some areas. Sweet corn planted the end of March under plastic is beginning to show tassel in the whorl. Pumpkin planting began over the Memorial Day weekend and will continue for the next 3 weeks or so. Cultivation and side dressing of Nitrogen continues on sweet corn crops. Seeding of Cauliflower, cabbage and broccoli plants in the greenhouse has begun in preparation for the planting of the fall crop in 6 weeks.

Recent production issues have included: frost damage from the Memorial Day weekend freeze/frost last Saturday on cucumber, squash and beans; fields are getting dry so irrigation lines are being strung and drip irrigation is being run on a constant basis; post emergent herbicide damage on green beans has occurred with some tank mix combinations; cucumber beetles emerged last week causing feeding damage to cucumber and squash transplants; aphids outbreaks continue in high tunnel crops especially tomatoes and in plasticulture strawberries; some cutworm damage has been reported on sweet corn and bean crops.

New Herbicide Registration – *Doug Doohan, Dept. Horticulture & Crop Science*

Spartan Charge: Special Local Need (Section 24C) for weed control in row middles of peppers transplanted in plastic mulch. Spartan Charge is a premix of sulfentrazone and carfentrazone used primarily for weed control in soybean, peanut, tobacco and sunflower. Weeds are controlled pre-emergence and early post (up to 3 inches tall depending on the species) and include a wide range of broadleaf weeds and sedges. Apply Spartan Charge pre- or post-transplant using a shielded sprayer and avoid applying herbicide to the plastic. For rates and additional details refer to the label (EPA Reg No 279-3337; EPA SLN No OH-130004). Users must be in possession of the label at the time of application.

Cucumber Beetles - *Jim Jasinski, OSU Extension IPM Program*

It's that time of the year again to be thinking about cucumber beetle control on all cucurbits (melons, squash, pumpkin, cucumbers, etc.). While most seed can be purchased treated with Farmore seed treatment (fungicide and insecticide) for disease and beetle control at seeding, there are also options to apply insecticides in-furrow (imidacloprid, thiamathoxam) at seeding as well as a range of foliar spray options once the seedlings have emerged. Treatment by foliar sprays are recommended if pressure exceeds 0.5 beetles/plant on cotyledon stage plants and 2 beetles/plant for 4th leaf stage seedlings. A full list of insecticides to control cucumber beetles and other cucurbit pests can be found in the Midwest Vegetable Production Guide (http://www.btny.purdue.edu/pubs/id/id-56/90_Cucurbits.pdf).

If cucurbit plants are left unprotected, cucumber beetles can severely damage or even kill plants outright. Plants that are fed upon by cucumber beetles are also at risk for bacterial wilt infection, a disease that will become evident later in the season and has no remedy.

Only a few cucumber beetles have been seen in Columbus and South Charleston to date, but reports from southern Ohio indicate heavy pressure last week. For the next few weeks, be sure to scout newly established fields every few days for signs of beetles or damage.

NOAA End-of-May Weather Forecast - *Jim Noel, NOAA*

The pattern change we talked about last week has occurred but it appears the axis of heavier rain will not shift quite as far northwest as we thought last week. Last week it looked like the rain axis would be from Iowa to Michigan. Now it looks to be from southeast Iowa to Illinois to southern lower Michigan and northern Indiana and northwest Ohio. It is always the details that count.

What does this mean for Ohio? This means it will not get drier. For many this spells good growing conditions though some flooded fields could develop in northern and western sections for a short time this coming weekend.

The week of May 28 will feature much above normal temperatures and normal to above normal rainfall. Except in the far north, rainfall will be limited until late week allowing for any late planting to be completed.

Temperatures will average 5-10 degrees above normal this week. It will also be a humid week. Rainfall will increase by the first weekend in June. Rainfall will average 1-2 inches with some places reaching 3+.

For the week of June 3...temperatures will retreat to near normal to slightly above normal and rainfall will back off to normal or slightly below normal.

Even though we had a very chilly March, April and May have turned out to be slightly warmer than normal and slightly drier than normal in the east and slightly wetter than normal in western sections of the state. Temperatures since April 1 are actually averaging 1-2 degrees above normal (just seems not as warm after the record warm 2012) across the state and rainfall is average within about an inch of normal in most places. For what we call normal, we really can't get much more normal in Ohio than this.

Keep up on the latest 2 week rainfall outlooks at the National Weather Service Ohio River Forecast Center link:

<http://www.erh.noaa.gov/ohrfc/HAS/images/NAEFS16day.pdf>

Normal on this link's graphic is about 2 inches. Overall, the outlooks for 2013 we made in 2012 are working out very well.

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