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Downy Mildew Confirmed on Ohio Melons

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Downy mildew was confirmed today on melons from Holmes County, OH. ♦♦ This is about a month since the disease was found on cucumbers in this area. ♦ Growers in northern Ohio should begin applying fungicides effective against downy mildew on melons, if they are not already doing so. Most recent research has shown that fungicides can be ranked as follows for efficacy against downy mildew: Presidio = Ranman ♦ > Previcur Flex > Curzate > Gavel > Mancozeb = Bravo.

Please note that symptoms of downy mildew on melons are quite different than those on cucumbers. Lesions are necrotic and surrounded initially with a yellow halo, which looks like a water-soaked ring on the underside of the leaf. The pathogen does not produce as many sporangia on the undersides of melon leaves as it does on cucumber, therefore it is very difficult to see the characteristic dark ♦ dots ♦ using a hand lens. ♦ See photos below.





Downy mildew symptoms on melon leaves

Samples can be sent to the OSU Vegetable Pathology lab in the Department of Plant Pathology, The Ohio State University, OARDC, 1680 Madison Ave., Wooster, OH 44691, ph. 330-263-3838, or to the C. Wayne Ellett Plant and Pest Diagnostic Clinic, OSU, Kottman Hall, 2021 Coffey Road, Columbus, OH 43210, ph. 614-292-5006 (c/o Nancy Taylor) for confirmation. Those in the Fremont area may prefer to take their samples to the OSU-OARDC North Central Agricultural Experiment Station, which is now equipped with microscopes connected to the OSU Wooster and Columbus labs via the internet, for confirmation.

Fungicide application:

◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆ **Protection before disease appears:** Apply one of the following fungicides on a 7-10 day schedule, tank mixed with Bravo, Manzate or Dithane: Presidio, Ranman, Previcur Flex, Tanos, Curzate or Gavel (gavel already contains mancozeb). ◆ Alternate products. ◆ The application interval can be lengthened under dry conditions. ◆ Use the shorter interval under cool, moist conditions.

◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆ **Management after disease appears:** Apply one of the following fungicides on a 5-7 day schedule, tank mixed with Bravo or Dithane: Presidio, Ranman, Previcur Flex, or Tanos. ◆ Alternate products. ◆ The application interval can be lengthened under dry conditions. ◆ Use the shorter interval under cool, moist conditions. ◆ See product labels for fungicide rates.

Insect Notes by C. Welty

◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆ **Corn earworm alert:** Pheromone trapping is showing that most locations in Ohio have had some corn earworm activity throughout June and July, which is earlier than usual. The only location with very high catches is Clark County (Southwestern Ohio), where there was a sharp increase in the past week: 114 moths trapped. The number of moths trapped in Meigs County (southeastern Ohio) has been moderate since mid-June, with trap reports of 6 moths last week at Portland and 11 moths at Racine. In northern Ohio, trap catches last week ranged from zero at Wooster to 4 at Fremont. Presence of corn earworm moths means that fields of sweet corn in the fresh-silk stage need an insecticide spray schedule to prevent wormy ears at harvest. As summarized on page 259 of the 2010 Ohio Vegetable Production Guide (online at <http://ohioline.osu.edu/b672/index.html>), when temperatures are above 80F, the spray interval needed is 5 days when moth capture in traps is 1.4 to 3.5 moths per week. The schedule should be intensified to every 4 days if traps catch 3.5 to 7 moths per week, or to every 3 days if traps catch 7 to 91 moths per week, or to every 2 days if traps catch more than 91 moths per week. Trap catches for corn earworm and several other pests at several Ohio locations are posted weekly on a website: http://bugs.osu.edu/welty/veg_traps1/2010_data/CEWTrapSummary2010.htm

◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆ **Onion thrips on dry bulb onions:** ◆ Although the recent rainy weather should make thrips less of a problem than usual, growers of dry bulb onions should be aware that we have Movento as an insecticide option this year, due to registration as a Section 18 emergency exemption. The Section 18 label is posted online at <http://pested.osu.edu/section18.htm>. ◆ Movento is allowed for this use in Ohio until 15 September. Movento should be used at a rate of 5 fl oz per acre in a limit of two applications per year, with a 7-day pre-harvest interval. Movento should be tank mixed with an adjuvant such as DyneAmic that has spreading and penetrating properties.

