

# VegNet



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## OPGMA Summer Tour

Held June 24, attendees will have abundant opportunities to tour both of the host sites: Bachman's Sunny Hill Fruit Farm, featuring apple production, and Schacht Family Farm Market, showcasing plasticulture strawberries as well as a variety of summer crops.

There will also be available a number of speakers from each facility and from the industry. The sessions at this year's tour include:

- An overview of new apple thinning trails currently being held at several grower sites around the state. Speaker Jozsef Racsko.
- New approaches to apple insect and mite management (Celeste Welty) will explain how codling moths are being controlled with a new chemistry and pheromone mating disruption product, Isomate-CTT.
- An update on the Ohio Apple Marketing Program from Mitch Lynd.
- Identifying crop disease and insect issues with a panel of experts from the Plant and Pest Diagnostic Clinic.
- Understanding and managing tree and small fruit disease problems (Mike Ellis).
- A discussion of maximizing food safety and handling procedures with Bob Jones.
- Marketing techniques from the managers of a 30-year-old farm market and pick-your-own farm.
- Production techniques for strawberries (Brad Bergefurd) and sweet corn (Bob Precheur), including ideas to extend the corn season into late June.
- Examples of watermelon, cucumber, summer squash, peas, stringless green beans, white half-runner beans, and tomatoes, including sorting lines, mechanical harvester, and drip irrigation.

To register or to learn more about the stops and education on 2009 OPGMA Summer Tour & Field Day, go to [www.opgma.org/events](http://www.opgma.org/events).

## Onion thrips management on dry onions this year by C. Welty

The Ohio Dept. of Agriculture was informed by the US EPA last week that its request for a Section 18 specific exemption for use of Carzol (formetanate hydrochloride) for thrips control on dry bulb onions has **not** been approved for 2009. This insecticide was available in Ohio via a Section 18 exemption in 2008 and 2007. We are investigating the possibility of a Section 18 for Movento (spirotetramat), but it will take several weeks at minimum before we know if this would be approved. Among fully registered insecticides, Radiant (spinetoram) is a best bet for thrips control, although it should not be used in more than two consecutive applications, and should be rotated with unrelated products. Assail (acetamiprid) or a tank mix of Assail and Lannate (methomyl) are reasonable rotation partners. Pyrethroids such as Warrior and Mustang are no longer effective due to the development of insecticide resistance in most onion thrips populations.

Onion thrips is a key pest of onions. The rasping-type feeding by thrips on the surface of onion leaves initially causes silver-white streaks on leaves. As the thrips population grows and feeding continues, the streaks enlarge, and the leaves shrivel and die, leading to premature drying of the crop. Onion plants can be killed by onion thrips, if heavy infestations occur on young plants. On older plants, bulb size is affected due to loss of photosynthate, reducing yield by 10 to 50%. Smaller bulb size results in price decreases due to the lower grade product. Recent problems with onions sprouting after storage have been attributed to field infestations of thrips; a sprout-inhibitor chemical is normally applied to the crop once it is mature, but if leaves are heavily damaged by thrips, then leaves cannot adequately absorb the sprout inhibitor. Thrips-damaged plants also lose moisture in storage, which leads to sweating and subsequent mold development.

A potential additional problem is that onion fields are at risk of invasion by iris yellow spot virus, which can cause severe crop losses. This relatively new virus infects onions and related plants and is transmitted only by thrips. This virus has been found in Arizona, Texas, and Georgia, which are major suppliers of onion transplants and sets to the Midwest. The virus can be controlled only by controlling thrips; there are no other control measures or resistant varieties currently available.

## Bacterial Spot and Speck, of Tomatoes

Bacterial spot symptoms were observed on flower clusters of tomatoes this week. Follow recommendations on page 275 of the 2009 OH Vegetable production guide. Additional information is below



**From: HYG Fact Sheet-3120-96 by Sally A. Miller, Randall C. Rowe, Richard M. Riedel**

Bacterial spot and bacterial speck are widespread diseases of tomato that can cause localized epidemics during warm (spot and canker) or cool (speck), moist conditions. Bacterial spot can cause moderate to severe defoliation, blossom blight, and lesions on developing fruit. Bacterial speck also causes these symptoms but is usually not as severe in Ohio as bacterial spot.

**Symptoms:** Foliar symptoms of bacterial spot and speck are identical. Small, water-soaked, greasy spots about 1/8 inch in diameter appear on infected leaflets. After a few days, these lesions are often surrounded by yellow halos and the centers dry out and frequently tear. Lesions may coalesce to form large, irregular dead spots. In mature plants, leaflet infection is most concentrated on fully-expanded and older leaves and some defoliation may occur. Spots may also appear on seedling stems and fruit pedicels. In some cases, blossom blight may occur, causing flower abortion. This is more severe with bacterial spot and may result in a split fruit set which is especially troublesome with determinate cultivars intended for mechanical harvest.

### Phenoxy Herbicide Damage on Vegetable Crops

Communication is one of the keys in avoiding 2,4,D or similar herbicide damage to vegetables. Growers should let neighbors know that sensitive vegetables are nearby agronomic crops so that when certain herbicides are applied, all measures have been taken to avoid drift and damage to vegetables. Good neighbors should also let custom applicators know that vegetable crops are in the vicinity. Vegetable growers can also call custom applicators to let them know the location of their vegetable fields. It doesn't take much to stunt or delay a crop and cause significant yield reduction. Examples are below of drift problems from this growing season.



### Crop Reports

From June 5: Vegetable Crop Report from southeastern Ohio, Meigs County, by Hal Kneen

May and now the beginning of June has been trying for growers to get the crop in due to too much rain and varying temperatures. Crops that got planted, welcomed the warm and sunny weather and have grown well. Sweet corn under clear plastic begun tasselling last month and now bare crop sweet corn has tassels forming. Tomatoes and peppers planted on raised beds covered in black plastic are forming fruit. Bacterial speck has been found on some tomatoes that did not have a protective spray. Copper and manzate seem to be keeping the spread under control. Remember to alternate other fungicides in the spray program using Vegetable Bulletin 672, especially for early blight our next disease problem. Won't be long until harvest begins.

High tunnels and row covers are being utilized for early production with some success in southern Ohio. Produce (beans, squash, cucumbers) is

showing up at the local Farmers' Markets and is being well received.

SW Ohio crop report June 12, by Brad Bergefurd

TWITTER at <https://twitter.com/osuschort>

Between rains and storms growers are cutting and baling rye straw for mulch, picking strawberries, cutting lettuce, pulling radishes, harvesting garlic scapes, picking snap peas, seeding and transplanting continues of all vegetable and melon crops, planting of strawberries and brambles continues. Harvest of summer bearing red raspberries began this week. Sidedressing nitrogen on sweet corn, irrigation/fertigation of strawberries, brambles, vegetable and melon crops. Harvest of tunnel grown tomatoes, summer squash, beans, cucumbers continues. Working ground, spreading fertilizer, spraying herbicides, fungicides and insecticides. Replanting of beans, melons and sweet corn that were cut off or damaged from recent hail storms and flooding.

#### **SWEET CORN SCHOOLS CANCELED**

Due to low enrollment, both sweet corn management schools on June 16 at the Western Ag Research Station in South Charleston and June 18 at the North Central Ag Research Station in Fremont have been canceled.