VegNet

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Potato-Tomato Early Summer Late Blight Update

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Late blight has been reported in potatoes and tomatoes from Long Island NY, NC, NJ and several PA counties. The PA outbreaks were recorded in the last several days in tomato (Blair county) and potato/tomato (Franklin county). Both of these counties are in south-central PA.

With cool temperatures expected for several more days, and rainfall/cloudy conditions probable in some areas, **it is very important that both potatoes and tomatoes be scouted regularly (at least twice per week) for late blight**. If late blight is suspected, it can be confirmed by bringing or sending a sample to the OSU Vegetable Pathology lab in Wooster (http://oardc.osu.edu/sallymiller/Extension%20Outreach/index.htm#pddiagnostics) or the OSU C. Wayne Ellett Plant and Pest Diagnostic Clinic in Reynoldsburg (http://ppdc.osu.edu/). We appreciate hearing from you if you expect late blight is suspected so that we can confirm and if necessary alert others.

There is a late blight website with information about current outbreaks, disease management recommendations, photos of symptoms, etc. (www.USAblight.org). If you would like to receive late blight alerts you can sign up on this website.

The isolates recovered this spring from NY, NC and NJ are clonal lineages, US-23 and US-24. US- 23 is generally sensitive to mefanoxam (Ridomil) and US-24 strains vary in sensitivity to this fungicide. Since we don't know what, if any, strain(s) will appear in Ohio, it is not a good idea to rely on this fungicide alone. Fungicides such as chlorothalanil (Bravo, Echo, Equus) and EBDCs (Dithane, Penncozeb, Manzate) and copper-based products (Kocide, Champ, etc.) should be used on a protectant basis on a 7-10 day schedule under conditions not favorable for late blight and a 5-7 day schedule under favorable conditions if late blight has not been detected in the area. These fungicides also have activity against early blight. A good list of available fungicides compiled by Dr. Amanda Gevens at the University of Wisconsin can be found at http://www.plantpath.wisc.edu/wivegdis/pdf/Late%20Blight%20Fungicides%202010.pdf.

A recently completed brochure on late blight is available from USAblight.org. It contains lots of good photos of late blight symptoms as well as management recommendations.

Late blight photos:


Late blight lesion on top (left) and underside (right) of tomato leaf. The pathogen is sporulating in a ring around the outside edge of the lesion on the right.


Late blight symptoms on fruit (left) and stems (right).

Need to Brush up on your Sweet Corn Pest Management?

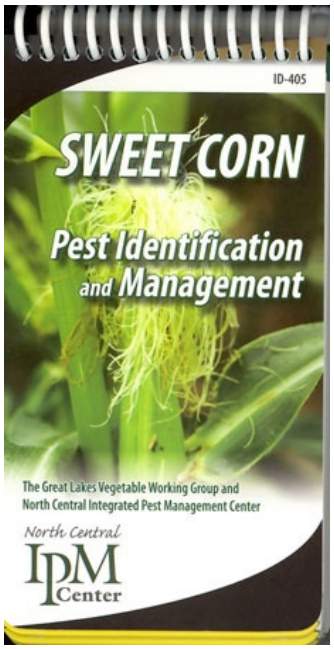
-Jim Jasinski, OSUE, IPM Program

In 2008, the Great Lakes Vegetable Working Group produced the “Sweet Corn Pest Identification and Management Pocket Guide” to help growers better manage this crop. The pocket guide is a quick, colorful, and handy reference for sweet corn growers, Extension educators, crop consultants, and industry field representatives who work in the North Central Region.

The information presented in this guide covers almost every aspect of pest management a fresh market or processing sweet corn grower is likely to encounter. The 103 page spiral bound guide is printed on weatherproof synthetic paper with full color pictures of weeds, herbicide injury, diseases, pest and beneficial insects, and vertebrates, including their damage. There is also thorough information about general horticulture, nutrient deficiencies, and fertility recommendations surrounding production of this crop.

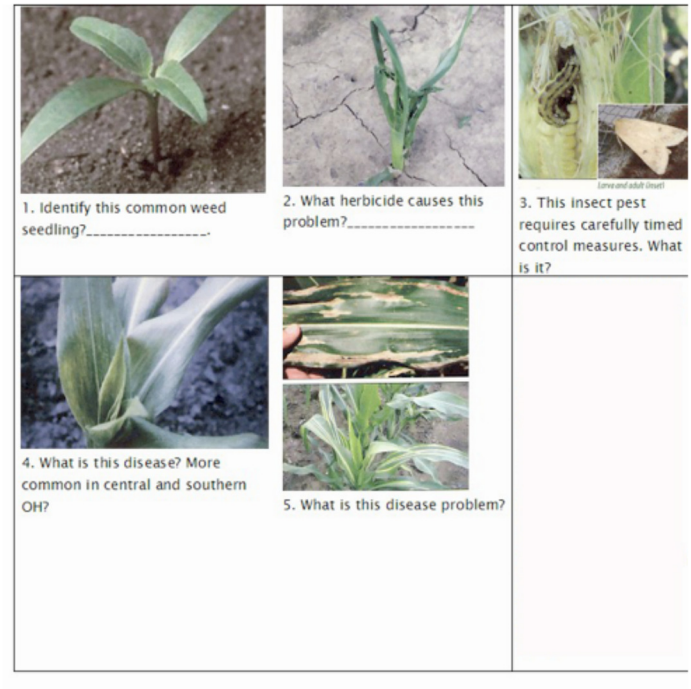
Below are some sample pages from the guide. The pocket guide can be ordered directly from Purdue University for $10 a copy at https://mdc.itap.purdue.edu/item.asp?itemID=18842

The PDF version of the pocket guide can also be downloaded for free at http://glvwg.ag.ohio-state.edu/documents/ID_405_Sweet_Corn-1.pdf.



Some Sample Pages:

Test your “in the field” knowledge of sweet corn to see if you can correctly identify all five of the sweet corn questions below. No prizes this time! If you can’t, then you need a copy of the “Sweet Corn Pest Identification and Management Pocket Guide” to find out the answers!



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