

VegNet Vol. 12, No. 12. July 6, 2005

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Fungicide Programs for Cucurbit Diseases –

Sally Miller

In a dry year such as this (so far), diseases can be expected to be less evident than in rainy years. Therefore, it may not be necessary to start fungicide applications until later in the season than in the last several years. A good scouting program, combined with attention to the weather forecasts, is important to determine when to start applying fungicides. A fungicide program for vine crops might start with broad-spectrum protectants such as Bravo, mancozeb or maneb to control diseases such as anthracnose, alternaria leaf spot and gummy stem blight. A copper-containing product such as Kocide 2000 should be included to reduce populations of angular leaf spot bacteria and will also help with the fungal diseases. Once powdery mildew shows up, a good powdery mildew product should be included such as Amistar, Procure or others. If downy mildew comes in,

probably not before mid-late August, then the weekly program should include a fungicide such as Tanos/Manzate, Previcur Flex + Bravo, or Gavel + Bravo alternated with Ridomil Gold Bravo or other fungicide with a different mode of action (different Fungicide Group). Continue adding copper for angular leaf spot management. See pages 56–57 in the 2005 Ohio Vegetable Production Guide (OSU Extension Bulletin 672) for information on fungicide resistance management and a listing of vegetable fungicides and the Fungicide Group to which they belong.

The second case of downy mildew on cucumber in New Jersey was reported on June 24, 2005 in organic slicing and pickling cucumbers, about 1 mile from the first outbreak discovered 10 days previously (update provided by Andy Wyenandt, Rutgers Univ.). According to the North Carolina State University Cucurbit Downy Mildew Forecast (<http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/pp/cucurbit/>), "Tuesday and Wednesday's trajectories do not threaten any locations outside Florida, Georgia, and New Jersey." So it is not time to worry about downy mildew in Ohio yet. Powdery mildew has not been spotted on cucurbits in Ohio at this time, but may be expected in mid-July. Fungicide programs for powdery mildew management do not need to be started until the first spots are observed.

If it looks like there is going to be sustained rainy weather,

especially if there are going to be thunderstorms with significant rainfall, and the cucumber, squash, or other vine crop field has a history of Phytophthora blight, fungicides for Phytophthora management need to be included (this needs to be done preventatively). Acrobat, Gavel or Tanos, tank-mixed with the full rate of Kocide 2000 or other copper hydroxide fungicide can be used. These have to be alternated with each other or a protectant fungicide; the Tanos label also requires that Manzate or similar product is included. It is important to protect cucumber fruit while they are forming, so that is the best time to use the fungicides like Acrobat, Gavel or Tanos. However, the Pre-Harvest Interval for Gavel (5 days) and Tanos (3 days) can be a problem.

Fungicides should only be considered as a last resort in vine crop disease management. Crop rotation, clean seed, resistant varieties, water management and other cultural practices should be initiated to prevent the buildup of pathogens and reduce the chances for serious disease problems.

Crop Reports Southeast Ohio 6/29/05 by Hal Kneen
Drought like conditions continue as the irrigation pumps are being used almost 24 hours a day to bring water to growers' fields. Thank goodness for trickle irrigation in

tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, and vine crops. Overhead irrigation mainly used for sweet corn production. Chance of scattered rain on Wednesday, June 29th.

Warm nights and hot days are assisting the crops in growing, especially tomatoes and vine crops. Sweet corn will be in tight supply for the July 4th weekend and tomatoes almost non-existent. By the 10th both should be available.

Another 12 corn earworms moths caught in helio traps this past week, June 21–28. No European corn borer moths trapped, however some signs of tassels bending were noticed by growers.

Eastern OH 6/30/05 by Mark A. Landefeld, Monroe County
Hot and dry continues to be the weather pattern in eastern Ohio. Thunderstorms moved through the area one afternoon this week, but they were sporadic and short-lived rain events. A few growers reported up to .7 inch while others nearby did not receive enough to measure. Hail was reported in a few areas, but damage was very minimal. Irrigation continues in most fields where water is available. Strawberry harvest has ended for our growers. Cucumbers, pickles, squash, cabbage, broccoli and potatoes are being harvested by many growers. Beans should be harvested this week, but ripe tomatoes are still at least a week away. A few green

tomatoes were sold at the auction this week and did rather well. Japanese beetles are heavily infesting some areas. The weekend forecast calls for slight chances of afternoon thunderstorms with temps in the upper eighties and low nineties, then dry for the beginning of the week.

Southwest Ohio 6/30/05 by Brad Bergefurd

Heat and dry is the talk of the towns. Some areas did get up to 6 inches of rain this week whereas 1/2 mile down the road growers got 1/10 in. Irrigation continues with growers reporting ponds running low and dry and some reverting to having wells dug. Harvest of high tunnel tomatoes is in full swing with very high yields and quality prices are up to \$2 a pound wholesale. Harvest of all summer squash and cukes is in full swing with much crop coming in. Sweet corn harvest has begun with yields not as high but quality is good. Harvest of green beans has begun. Planting of pumpkins, squash, sweet corn, melons, tomatoes, cabbage, beans, lima beans, cucumbers and squash continues. New potatoes are being dug. Cucumber beetles are being reported by growers as being very bad with growers making insecticide applications. Early blight is showing up on tomatoes and potatoes.

PESTICIDE CONTAINER RECYCLING SITES

ANNOUNCED From PEP-TALK, July 2005

Tri-Rinse will be picking up containers at 23 locations in

Ohio. The businesses participating, along with the dates of collection, are linked on the Pesticide Education Program website at <http://pested.osu.edu> Go to the "General Information" page and follow the link for "Pesticide Container Recycling." Thanks to the Ohio AgriBusiness Association for compiling this information.