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Ohio State University Extension Vegetable Crops On  
the WEB at: <http://vegnet.osu.edu>

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**Annual Grass Control in Sweet Corn** by Doug Doohan  
Following up on Brad Bergefurds very thorough report on conditions in southern Ohio (see below), and the problem farmers are experiencing with grass control in corn, here are a few suggestions for POST control. Before using these treatments, read the label, paying particular attention to cautions regarding crop injury and possible waiver of liability in the event of crop injury.

- Atrazine + Oil (typically 80:20 blends of mineral oil + surfactant are used): Atrazine can be used at label rates up to 1.62 lb ai/A, but more than 1 lb ai may result in carryover injury to crops planted next year. Grass control may not be excellent at the 1 lb rate. Generally, if atrazine, or premix products containing atrazine were applied PRE do not use this treatment.
- Callisto (or labeled Mesotrione containing products): Only controls crabgrass. Crop oil (COC) or non-ionic-surfactant (NIS) is required.
- Frontier: Should control most annual grasses when

- applied POST, provided they are not beyond the 2 leaf stage. Sweet corn can be treated up to 7 inches tall.
- Impact: New herbicide that we have tested (2006), with good safety, on half a dozen sweet corn varieties. Impact at fl oz/A + - 1 lb of atrazine + COC or NIS or methylated seed oil controls actively growing annual grasses and broadleaf weeds. NIS is preferred if crop is under stress.
  - Accent: Apply broadcast or with drop-nozzles to corn up to 12 inches high (V5 stage), or with drop-nozzles to corn 12-18 inches high. Do not apply to sweet corn with more than 5 collars (V5). Accent must be applied with NIS or COC. It does not control crabgrass. Foxtails, fall panicum and barnyard grass are controlled up to 4 inches high, seedling Johnson grass up to 12 inches high and rhizome Johnson grass up to 18 inches high. CAUTION: Not all varieties are tolerant of Accent. Growers must assume all risk for crop injury.
  - Bicep Lite II Magnum: Should control emerged seedling annual grasses up to the 2 leaf stage. Corn should not be beyond the 2 leaf stage.

## Crop Reports by Ron Becker and Brad Bergefurd

Southern Ohio Veg Net Report From May 24,  
2007Irrigation systems, both drip and overhead are being run almost around the clock with the continued drought

like conditions and lack of any real measurable rainfall since around mid April. Growers from the Bainbridge area reported 32 degrees on Saturday morning with frost in low lying areas. Warm temperatures approaching the nineties are providing the warmth needed for crops to really begin to put on growth, however tomatoes in high tunnels where shading materials have not yet been applied are showing severe signs of heat stress and sunscald on fruit shoulders. Growers should consider applying their shade materials, i.e shade cloth, whitewash, liquid shade compounds ASAP to prevent further heat related stress and crop injury. This heat stress can also lead to yellow shoulder disorder on tomato fruit. For more information on yellow shoulder disorder and possible causes of other tomato color disorders visit <http://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/tomato/prese2004.pdf> Strawberry harvest, both plasticulture and matted/ribbon row production methods is underway with very good taste and quality being reported due to the lack of moisture and dry conditions. Harvest yields are improving with later varieties and matted row production methods where plants were not yet blooming or as emerged during the Easter freeze. Harvest of mature green and a few vine ripe tomatoes in high tunnels, field radishes, green onions, spinach, lettuce (head and leaf), asparagus and early cabbage continues. Reported prices for these vine ripe tunnel grown tomatoes are around \$80 per 55 lb. bushel. Non irrigated sweet corn and green bean plantings are showing signs of split

emergence due to the dry topsoil conditions. This will make harvest difficult and could cause cross pollination problems in severe spilt emerged sweet corn plantings, making all the more important to irrigate under these conditions where irrigation is available. It is critical that growers begin operating their irrigation systems to reduce plant stress and get newly planted crops germinated and evenly emerged. Having visited many farms this week in Pike, Highland, Ross, Licking and Clinton counties I was surprised to see many crops showing drought stress where drip irrigation and overhead was readily available, the grower just had "not gotten it hooked up". For more information on irrigation and critical periods of water need for vegetable crops visit the Ohio State University Vegetable Production Guide, OSU Bulletin 672 at <http://ohioline.osu.edu/b672/pdf/Irrigation.pdf> .Flea beetles were noticed in sweet corn fields this week however these fields had not reached action threshold levels <http://ohioline.osu.edu/b672/pdf/Corn.pdf>. and no spray applications were warranted at this point however growers should continue to scout fields especially where Stewart's Wilt susceptible varieties are planted. Bean leaf beetles have skeltonized some green bean and half runner bean fields, for control options visit <http://ohioline.osu.edu/b672/pdf/Beans.pdf> Due to the lack of rainfall many pre emerge herbicides applied the past 4 to 6 weeks have not received the necessary rainfall in order to be activated. Several sweet corn fields this week

had severe emergence of grass species, nutsedge, thistle and cocklebur. Consult the Vegetable production guide for post emergence herbicide options where necessary and "don't park the cultivator". Planting of all vegetable crops continues. Growers began to spray and roll rye crops for the first plantings of pumpkins will be seeded over the Memorial Day weekend, however growers are concerned that no till planters may have trouble with proper seed depth placement by not being able to penetrate the hard soil surface due to the dry topsoil conditions. The rye crop also has pulled a lot of topsoil moisture the past few weeks. Due to the poor growing conditions last fall some rye fields did not get as tall as usual therefore rolling has been difficult in some situations, the rye seems to want to spring back up. This may also be partly due to the dry growing conditions being experienced where the rye stems are not kinking and cracking as they should. Rolling in the mornings when more moisture is in the rye plant seems to be helping a little. All pickle plantings are emerged with very light cucumber beetle pressure being observed on non treated fields, however patches of nutsedge are a concern.

Wayne County Vegetable Crop Report. From May 25, 2007  
Timber rot on tomato has been found in a high tunnel. At this point only one plant was showing infection. Green beans have heavy infestations of bean leaf beetles and are being treated. Sweet corn fields are starting to show active flea beetles as the seed treatment is starting to wear

off. Thrips have started to show up in onions, but far from threshold levels. The main pest in cole crops continues to be flea beetle. Many of the tomato and pepper plantings are just being put in this week. Vine crops are also being planted both as transplants and straight seedings. Potatoes have had few pests so far this year, but we found our first potato beetle Thursday evening.

## Fresh Produce Food Safety Comments to FDA

by John Wargowsky

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is accepting comments regarding, data, and other scientific information about current agricultural and manufacturing practices used to produce, harvest, pack, cool, process, and transport fresh produce; risk factors for contamination of fresh produce associated with these practices; and possible measures by FDA to enhance the safety of fresh produce. There is pressure for FDA to develop federal regulations. Ohio Farm Bureau is concerned that these regulations could 1) be geared toward large western produce growers, 2) negatively affect Midwest production, 3) negatively affect small retail growers and 4) negatively impact international trade. Ohio Farm Bureau is asking fresh fruit and vegetable producers to submit comments by June 13, 2007. Read the Farm Bureau Action Alert. Contact John Wargowsky, Ohio Farm Bureau, PH: 614-246-8291, FX: 614-246-8686

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