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

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Vegetable pest observations 8/2/07 by C. Welty

Western corn rootworm beetles are present at unusually high levels in many fields of sweet corn and pumpkins. Some whorl-stage corn is having leaves shredded and killed by extensive feeding damage, and pollination is poor in some fields where silks were clipped by beetles during the early silk stage. We do not have a threshold for rootworm beetles on whorl-stage corn but if whole leaves are being killed, then an insecticide spray is probably warranted. The beetles are very susceptible to carbaryl (Sevin) and pyrethroids. There are reports of beetles re-infesting a field after a spray due to continued emergence of new beetles from the soil. The large populations are likely due to the dry weather during June, which allowed excellent survival of the beetles during their final larval feeding period and during pupal development in the soil.

In pumpkins, the western corn rootworm beetle feeds on pollen and does not cause damage to fruit as long as many flowers are present in the crop, but beetles will move to

fruit and feed on the rind once flowering tapers off in late summer. As always, precautions must be made to avoid harming bees if an insecticide spray is needed; spraying in the evening is advised.

Sweet corn that is starting to silk is at risk of worm infestation this week, after an increase in all three key pests during the past week.

Corn earworm moths have been absent for nearly absent from Ohio locations during July, but low to moderate levels of earworm moths were detected in pheromone traps last week in Meigs County, Clark County, and Franklin County. This pest is migratory and arrives at different times each year in Ohio. A 4-day spray schedule is advised to protect silking sweet corn while temperatures are high (>80F) and moth activity remains at low levels (1 to 6 moths per trap per week, while a 3-day spray schedule is advised to protect silking sweet corn while temperatures are high (>80F) and moth activity remains at moderate levels (6 to 90 moths per trap per week). A more intensive spray schedule will be needed if moth activity reaches high levels in coming weeks. Trap catches for corn earworm and several other pests are posted weekly on a website:

<http://bugs.osu.edu/welty/veg-traps07.html>

European corn borer has been following a typical pattern so far this summer. Moths from the overwintering generation were active from late May to late June, then few were seen in July. In the last week of July, moths of the new generation began to emerge as detected in

pheromone traps and blacklight traps. Peppers will be infested by this pest if preventive insecticide sprays are not made during August. Silking sweet corn is also at risk but can be protected by a 5-day spray schedule.

Fall armyworm moths were first detected in Celeryville in late June and in Columbus on 30 July. These moths prefer to lay eggs on whorl-stage corn in moist parts of a field but will lay eggs on silking corn also. Fall armyworm larvae are generally not susceptible to older pyrethroids such as Asana but are susceptible to newer pyrethroids such as Mustang, Baythroid, and Warrior.

While the striped cucumber beetle was unusually scarce in early summer in Ohio this year, it is now showing up in many cucumber and pumpkin fields, although usually outnumbered by western corn rootworm beetles.

On cabbage and cole crops, high levels of imported cabbageworm are reported, but diamondback moth is also active. In Columbus, yellow-striped armyworm is more abundant than usually, and is being found on tomato leaves and cucumber leaves.

Crop Reports by Ron Becker and Brad Bergefurd

Wayne County Report From August 3rd

As a result of the heavy rains (up to 5 inches in some areas) that were received on July 27th-28th, growers are seeing plants collapse in the lower area of their pepper, tomato and melon fields. Pythium and phytophthora were the diseases suspected in some cases with others just

being under water for too long a period. The rains did seem to reduce the numbers of two spotted spider mites that were starting to be found in area melon fields. Downy mildew is being found in cucumbers on more farms throughout the area and powdery mildew is being found in almost all fields of pumpkins and squash. Sweet corn fields are on a 5–7 day spray schedule for corn borer as we are finding corn borer egg masses in the fields but have not yet caught earworm in our traps. Many cole crop fields are having to be sprayed because of large numbers of imported cabbage worm, diamond back moth larvae and cabbage loopers starting to hatch out. Growers reported that large numbers of the white butterflies (imported cabbage worm adult) were seen in the fields immediately after the heavy rains.

Southern Ohio Berry and Vegetable Report 7/29–8/4/2007
Hot and Dry this past week with most of the week in the mid to high 90's. Plasticulture strawberry growers began sticking runner tips last week to begin growing out their plug plants that will go to the field the first part of September. Canadian strawberry runner tips I have observed on farms have been of very high quality and seem to be disease free. Under proper mist propagation systems, where misting intervals have ben shortened over past years due to the high temperatures, rooting is taking place within 48 hours of sticking. Growers continue to cultivate and multivate matted row strawberry beds to set

runners. Irrigation systems are once again being run around the clock due to the dry conditions and high heat, with no real measurable rainfall received for the growing region since July 19. Harvest of all summer produce is in full swing. The market price and demand for cantaloupe remains high in the wholesale market. Tomatoes had a drop in wholesale price and demand early in the week but price and demand quickly rebounded by weeks end at the Bainbridge wholesale produce auction. Growers are getting ready to harvest Ornamental corn in about 2 weeks and are preparing drying and sorting racks. Heavy morning dews and high humidity have helped spread Powdery and Downy Mildew disease pressure in vine crops where unprotected fields are showing serious injury from these diseases. Fungicide schedules for vine crops have been narrowed to 7 day schedules where allowed due to the heavy disease pressure. Growers transplanted cauliflower, broccoli, cabbage and fall high tunnel tomato crops this past week. Growers directed seeded to the fields green beans, half runner beans, snap peas, radishes, turnips, cucumbers, pickles, zucchini and yellow summer squash crops this past week as well.

Pumpkin Field Day, August 23rd, – Jim Jasinski

The 8th annual pumpkin field day will be held Thursday, August 23rd, 2007 at the Western Ag Research Station in South Charleston, Ohio. The field day will begin promptly

at 6:00 pm and conclude around 7:30 pm. Ohio State University specialist's in attendance will be Jim Jasinski (IPM Program), Bob Precheur (Horticulture and Crop Science), Richard Riedel (retired, Plant Pathology), Lanny Rhodes (Plant Pathology), and Celeste Welty (Entomology).

Growers will be taken around the 420 acre station to various research and demonstration plots on wagons pulled by tractors. The tour stops will include a 5 treatment transplant media study and a large scale fungicide demonstration trial using 11 products. There are 15 commercial entries in this year's pumpkin variety trial, and a 19 entry *Microdochium*/*Plectosporium* resistance screening trial with plant materials from four other countries. At each stop, growers will be encouraged to wander around the plots and ask questions of the specialists before boarding the wagons and heading to the next stop. At one of these stops, highlights of general insect management including seed treatment will also be given. A no-till zone tiller used to prepare several of the research trials will also be on display for growers to look at. Refreshments, water and pop, will be placed on each wagon, but no food will be served.

The Western Ag Research Station is located on SR 41, between I-70 and the town of South Charleston. Click on this link for a map with more directions <http://oardc.osu.edu/branches/western.asp>.

No CCA or PAT credits will be offered this year. Admission is \$3 per person, no pre-registration is required. Contact Jim Jasinski for more information, 937-484-1526 or jasinski.4@osu.edu. Hope to see you out there!

Vegetable Field Days, This Week:

Walking the Fields Tour: All are again reminded of the August 8, OSU Extension and the North Central Ag Research Station sponsored Walking the Field Tour. The tour will originate for the North Central Research Station at 1165 CR. 43 in Fremont, Ohio starting at 6:00 PM. The focus this year will be on types of irrigation, vegetable crops and new transplant planting technology. Listed are web links which outlines the

program: <http://www.ag.ohio-state.edu/~news/story.php?id=4203> or

http://oardc.osu.edu/fielddays/VegCrops_flier_lo.pdf

Horticulture Field Night Thursday August 9th to be held at the OSU South Centers at Piketon on Thursday August 9th from 5 till 8 pm. Cost is \$5 per person. Field research trial tours will be held from 5-7 p.m. with time for questions afterward. Dinner will be served from 7-8 p.m. Research trials to be highlighted include high tunnel tomato, pumpkin, seedless watermelon, fresh-market tomato, fresh-market bell pepper, summer squash, primocane-bearing brambles and strawberry plug plant

production. Other information to be discussed includes edible landscaping, ornamental corn, annual bedding plant and ornamental grass evaluations. Contact Information:
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