

VegNet Vol. 5, No. 12. June 10, 1998
Ohio State University Extension Vegetable Crops

Update on Aster leafhoppers and Aster Yellows
Casey Hoy and Sally Miller

Twenty-six aster leafhoppers were collected from Celeryville, OH on June 5, 1998. Of these, one tested positive for aster yellows by PCR (see VegNet#11-98). The estimated percentage of infected leafhoppers is 3.9%. As reported in VegNet #11, the percentage of aster yellows- positive aster leafhoppers collected on May 25, 1998 was 7.4%. Thus, growers should assume that the potential for aster yellows is present.

Details on control of aster yellows and its leafhopper vector can be found in VegNet #11-98 (6/3/98).

Crop Reports
Brad Bergesford, Bill Evans and Hal Kneen

SouthEast.

In general, vegetable crops look good and early compared to prior years. Many tomatoes are being trellised for a second time. Tomato fruit set are gradually increasing in size. Warmer night temperatures are needed. Tomatoes were spotted in small numbers with timber rot, bacteria speck and early blight on some farms. Weather report promises back to normal temperatures by the weekend. Cabbage is being harvested and appears to be in good demand, especially from local markets. Peppers are fruit, however, the plants need more warmth, plants looking on the yellowish side. Several farmers needed to irrigate over the past weekend especially sweet corn and tomatoes as fruit are forming. Welcomed rain fell all day Tuesday and early Wednesday morning. Clear skies expected for the rest of the week and warmer temperatures.

Insect report

European corn borer: 0 from Jun. 1-8.

Corn Earworm helio trap: 7 from Jun. 1-8, same as last week.

Variegated cutworm: 16 from Jun. 1-8 3 moths previous week.

SouthWest.

The area received rains on Tuesday of this week ranging from 3/4 to 2 3/4 inches in some places. Due to the wet months of April and May some Farmers still have planting to do, therefore the rains could have held off another few days. However, the newly planted crops that were put in the ground the past 10 days really benefited from these storms. The unusually cold weather over last Friday and the weekend, with readings in the high 30's to low 40's, severely slowed crop growth that is already behind schedule due to the wet spring and late plantings. These cold temperatures have also slowed sweet corn development with non plastic plantings

showing tassel in the whorl for the past 2 weeks. Cuke beetles are present in all vine crops. Herbicide injury continues to show up on some vegetable plantings, due to the cold and wet soil conditions of the past 5-6 weeks. Disease pressure is pretty minimal at this time in most all vegetable crops.

Hopefully fields will dry within the next few days and growers will have all plantings in the ground by next week, if Mother Nature cooperates.

North Central.

We had mid-30s in the muck this weekend. Some frost damage to sweet and indian corn. Early corn is knee high or so. A lot of Stewart's wilt around although flea beetles seem to be subsiding in numbers. Aster and potato leaf hoppers abundant. Carrot weevil larvae being found in the Muck Crops Branch's parsley. Some onion maggot damage in green onions, stand losses seem minimal at this time. Early heat has reduced some onion stands but growth appears good.

It is time to think about sidedressing long season crops, such as onions and leeks, for the first time. Growers in northern Ohio using anhydrous ammonia to sidedress field corn in their rotations will want to play close attention to soil moisture. Some soils may have inadequate amounts to provide a good seal after knifing in. Some areas, including Celeryville, got their first significant rain in a month Tuesday night.

TOMCAST Report

Disease Severity Value (DSV) Hotline -1-800-228-2905

Jim Jasinski

CORN DAMAGED BY FROST? WAIT BEFORE ACTING

(From: AgAnswers 09 June 98, by Amy Raley, Purdue Univ. An agronomy newsletter with weekly contributions from Purdue and OSU extension agronomy).

Since frost was reported on some sweet corn in parts of northern OH, excerpts from this article should be useful to some OH vegetable growers. Keep in mind the discussion here is about field corn but the information below should help you evaluate the extent of damage, if any, to your sweet corn crop.

If you grow corn in the northern third of Indiana, there's a chance your crop got bitten by frost over the weekend (June 6-7). Exactly how bad the bite was, varies by field. "Frost damage was fairly widespread throughout the northern third of Indiana, especially in low-lying areas," says Purdue Extension corn specialist Bob Nielsen. "The size of corn affected ranged from recently emerged to about 7- leaf collars-- about 15 inches tall."

He stresses, however, that farmers try to wait until they see the extent of the frost recovery before they take action and waiting to see the recovery will require patience. Plants don't reveal their recovery from frost for several days, he says.

The recovery of frosted corn depends greatly on whether the internal growing point region was damaged. Fortunately for most of the current crop, the growing point region of corn remains below ground, and relatively protected, until about 6-leaf collars or 1 foot tall.

"You can split corn plants vertically and inspect the growing point region for damage," Nielsen says. "The growing point region is near the top of the pyramid-shaped stalk tissue, below the rolled up leaves of the split stem. Healthy stalk tissue will be yellowish-white and firm; damaged tissue will be discolored and soft or water-soaked. Healthy leaf tissue rolled up in the whorl will be yellowish-green to green. Damaged tissue will be gray-- initially--and/or decomposing." Cool weather following frost can delay deterioration of injured plant tissue and leave producers with the false impression that their plants are healthy, Nielsen says. "The best way to assess the impact of frost damage to young corn is to leave the field alone for three to five days, then evaluate the degree of plant recovery. After three to five days, surviving corn plants should be showing new leaf tissue expanding from the whorls, while dead plants will still look dead."

What's New At The VegNet Web Site

Visit: "The Problem of The Week" For Pictures of...

Botrytis on Pepper Transplants. View pictures of both foliar and stem lesions on pepper seedlings plus some general comments on probable cause.

Late Blight on Tomato Transplants

White Rust of Brassicas

Eary Views of Vegetable Crops from SE Ohio, (Sweet corn on plastic + squash)

Check Out the New Look of the Tomcast Section (requires your browser to be able to view frames.)

+ A New Tomato Research Report by C. A. Wyenandt, R. M. Riedel, M. Bennett and C. Welty.

From The Vegetable Crops Planner: Links now provided to the National Weather Service Offices in Cleveland and Wilmington, OH. Provides Agricultural Observations, soil temperatures, climate summaries, growing degree days and much more.

1998 Ohio Vegetable Production Guide - Online. Visit: "The Library

Return to Vegetable Crops Homepage Ohio State University Extension

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