

Ohio Sweet Corn

It is worth noting that while the calendar says spring, one vegetable that we always associate with summer, namely sweet corn, was harvested this week on June 16 in southeast OH. Veteran growers and crop watchers say this is the earliest they can remember harvesting sweet corn. Many more fields are expected to be ready by this weekend or the first part of next week. All of this early corn was planted under clear plastic mulch. There is some concern about market prices since there is still lots of corn being shipped from the south. Retailers should emphasize the fact that there is nothing better than locally produced fresh Ohio sweet corn.

Late Blight in Meigs County Ohio Mac Riedel and Hal Kneen

Late Blight (*Phytophthora infestans*) was found on commercial cherry tomatoes in Meigs county OH yesterday. Commercial vegetable growers need to make sure they are keeping up with protective fungicides (Bravo, Terranil, Echo, mancozeb or Quadris). A Late Blight Warning was issued on June 9 from the Racine station in Meigs county, part of the TOMCAST reporting network. Growers producing tomatoes near these TOMCAST and Blitecast recording stations should take advantage of this important disease management tool. See the TOMCAST report below. Late Blight Symptoms: When conditions are right, cool wet weather, Randall Rowe, OSU Plant Pathologist, in his Fact Sheet "Foliar Blights of Tomatoes" says look for small dark, water soaked lesions on the foliage. These spots quickly enlarge to irregular, purplish black lesions one half to one and one half inches in diameter. The undersurface of the lesions will usually be covered with a white, mildew growth, especially when dew is present. Blackish-brown stem lesions can also develop which may rapidly girdle stems and destroy foliage. Green fruit can also be infested, resulting in large, brown leathery- appearing lesions, often concentrated on the sides of upper fruit surfaces. Although late blight causes a dry, firm fruit rot, secondary soft rot bacteria often follow, resulting in a slimy, wet rot of the entire fruit.

Early Blight in Tomatoes

The recent heavy and consistent rains have kept many growers from performing important field operations such as spraying, cultivating and sidedress fertilizer applications. In the case of tomatoes, growers should put on protective fungicide applications at their first opportunity if they are in an area where DSV's have been accumulating rapidly or they have not been able to maintain a normal spray schedule. In one location this week, large early blight lesions were observed on leaf petioles and the leaflets of lower leaves. If left uncontrolled, the disease could quickly move to the main stem and also infect the fruit near the calyx. Don't mistake

early blight for late blight. Early blight symptoms include the formation of concentric ringed lesions surrounded by a yellowish halo. Early blight prefers wet and warm weather conditions to develop.

Crop Reports

Hal Kneen

SouthEast.

. On Monday night, approximately 40 acres of tomatoes were hit with a devastating hail storm. Also affected were fields of peppers and sweet corn. Quarter-size hail potmarked fruit, damaged stems and broke the tops out of the plants. The affected crops are probably a total loss because the damage was so severe. Heavy rain was another problem in western parts of the region. As much as 4-8 inches were reported in many towns flooding pepper fields and other vegetables. Sweet corn harvest has started and cabbage harvest is just about over. Tomatoes are sizing up nicely with some fruit starting to turn white. Disease problems include timber rot (sclerotinia) and those mentioned above.

Insect report.

European corn borer: 0 from Jun. 8-15.

Corn Earworm helio trap: 24 from Jun. 8-15.

Variegated cutworm: 54 from Jun. 8-15.

TOMCAST Report

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

Jim Jasinski

Stewart's Wilt on Sweet Corn

Reports continue to come in that Stewart's bacteria wilt is widespread on sweet corn especially in northern OH. Many varieties are affected this year and Plant Pathology has confirmed that even field corn is showing infection which is supposed to have resistance. More about this later.

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

Early 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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