

VegNet Vol. 5, No. 19. July 29, 1998  
Ohio State University Extension Vegetable Crops

### Gummy Stem Blight in Muskmelon R. Precheur

This disease was observed on muskmelons in eastern OH. Leaf symptoms appear as circular dark tan to black spots up to 5 mm in diameter and are sometimes surrounded with a yellow halo. Later these spots dry up, become cracked and fall out. Infection often begins at the leaf margin. A wilt develops and progresses towards the center. Stems can be girdled and death occurs above this point. Stem cankers develop in the cortical tissue, and a brown, gummy exudate is commonly produced on the surface. The pathogen survives between seasons on diseased vines and crop debris. The optimum temperature for infection is around 69 to 70 degrees F. Moisture is more important for disease development than temperature, Peak spore development occurs after rains and during dew periods at night. Free moisture on leaves for at least 1 hour is necessary for infection. Chemical control can be achieved by regular applications of protectant fungicides. See page 97 of the 1998 OH Vegetable Production Guide for chemicals and rates of application.

### The Health Properties of Tomatoes Ron Overmyer, The CA Tomato Grower

There was an interesting editorial in the May/June issue of The California Tomato Grower. It deals with the health properties of tomatoes. It highlights a comprehensive, consumer marketing research report in the 1997 HealthFocus Trend Report. The report states that when Americans are filling their grocery baskets with foods, only broccoli and oranges outpace tomatoes and tomato sauce as foods they are trying to eat more often because they believe those foods will reduce their risk of disease. Many consumers are using food as a medicine to control or treat medical problems, boost their immune system or reduce their needs for drugs and medical therapy. Those perceived benefits are shaping buying decisions. There are a number of reports that show the importance of tomatoes in the American diet and its wealth of nutrients, vitamins and minerals. Then, processed tomatoes are identified as the lead source of a cancer fighting compound known as lycopene.

Field Day Reminder:  
Processing Tomato and Vegetable Crops Field Day  
Wednesday, Aug. 5 3:00 PM  
Vegetable Crops Branch, Fremont, OH.  
Call Ken Scaife 419-332-5142 for details and directions or email scaife.1@osu.edu

Crop Reports

Brad Bergefurd, Thom Harker, Hal Kneen

#### SouthEast

Vegetable harvesting continues with cantaloupes and watermelon being added to the tomatoes, sweet corn and peppers already being picked. Tomato harvests are increasing as "Sunbrite" and "Sunbeam" fruit are being harvested heavily. Beautiful fruit, 12-15 ounces each. Trickle irrigation is being used where it is installed. Drier temperatures helped moderate tomato early blight disease, see Tomcast report. Fields where timely sprays are not being applied are being plowed under due to early blight. Pricing per ten pound box decreased to \$5-8 a box on the wholesale market caused by pressure from CA, MI and NC growers plus lower demand. Sap beetles are being spotted in sweet corn ear tips. Bird damage has been a problem in some fields and destroyed about 33% of one planting. Hot dry weather continues through most of last week with lower evening temperatures Monday through Friday nights. Insect Report -July 21 through July 27. Second flight of ECB continues with 15 moths caught in helio trap.

Corn earworm: 15;

Variegated cutworm: 13.

#### SouthWest

Harvest of Green Bell Peppers began in the area about 10 days ago. Fruit size and quality is excellent. Harvest of beans, summer squash, eggplant, sweet corn, cabbage, tomatoes, melons, watermelons, cukes, etc. Also continues. Tomatoes seem to be scarce with California tomatoes most common on the market. Prices continue to also be higher than normal in the tomato market.

Cuke beetles continue to remain a problem for growers of vine crops, with continued signs of Bacterial Wilt in melons, cukes, pumpkins and squash. Growers continue applications of insecticides on these crops. Squash Vine Borer has also been found in several pumpkin fields. Growers have begun their fungicide applications for Powdery Mildew on pumpkins. A problem with wilt of Eggplant was noticed this week in a growers field. Bottom leaves wilt and then gradually turn brown. Fruit also show some browning. The samples are going to be checked for the possibility of Verticillium wilt. Growers that have not been irrigating tomatoes on a regular schedule or in fields where plantings were under water from heavy rains, are experiencing severe blossom end rot on several sets of tomatoes.

There seems to be an increase in the number of complaints of wildlife damage to commercial vegetable growers fields. These have included crows eating pumpkin seeds and plants, severe raccoon damage of sweet corn plantings (I was in a field where I saw a Red Fox eating on ears of sweet corn in broad daylight), deer pulling out and eating newly planted melon plants, deer eating newly emerged pumpkin plants and some type of wildlife damage (we are still investigating this one) of partially ripened tomatoes with bites taken out of them but still left on the vine.

#### TOMCAST Report

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

Jim Jasinski

What's New At The VegNet Web Site

In The Pumpkin Patch, JULY 1998, My Pumpkins Are Bigger Than Yours Returns, See: Bacterial Wilt, Angular Leaf Spot and Crop Status.

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

Septoria Leaf Blight and Phytophthora Blight of Tomato.

Angular Leaf Spot, Buckeye Rot and Phytophthora Blight of Cucurbits.

Timber Rot and Hail Damage.

The Meigs /Washington Vegetable Tour from SE Ohio, (Sweet corn, tomatoes + peppers)

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

We appreciate very much the financial support for this series of vegetable reports which we have received from the board of growers responsible for the Ohio Vegetable and Small Fruit research and Development Program. This is an example of use of Funds from the "Assessment Program".

Where trade names are used, no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by Ohio State University Extension is implied. Although every attempt is made to produce information that is complete, timely and accurate, the pesticide user bears the responsibility of consulting the pesticide label and adhering to those directions.

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