

Vegetable Insect News
Celeste Welty

European corn borer:

Many corn borer moths are now emerging and we can assume that they are starting to lay eggs on corn with preference for the tallest corn available. At Fremont, our blacklight trap caught the first corn borer moth on 4 May. The number corn borers caught per week was 1 moth from 4/28 to 5/4, 4 moths from 5/5 to 5/11; and 293 moths from 5/12 to 5/18. It is difficult to scout for corn borer eggs masses. The best management strategy for sweet corn is to scout when the tassels are pushing up from the whorl; spray insecticide if at least 10% of plants are infested.

Corn flea beetle:

Beetles are abundant. Growers need to know if their corn varieties are resistant or susceptible to Stewart's wilt, which these beetles vector. Beetle control usually is not warranted on non-susceptible varieties as long as corn is growing rapidly. See susceptibility ratings of 1700 varieties by J. Pataky of Univ. of Illinois in the Midwest Veg. Variety Trial Report for 1997. After a warm winter, Stewart's wilt is expected to be severe. Susceptible varieties should be treated with a systemic soil insecticide at planting (Furadan, Counter, Thimet). If not treated at planting, a foliar insecticide with long residual can be used; Sevin XLR or pyrethroids (Asana, Warrior, Pounce) are usually used. These do not redistribute as plants grow so several applications may be needed on wilt-susceptible varieties if plants are growing fast and beetle invasion continues. (See related story below)

Slugs:

Metaldehyde is the only molluscicide registered for vegetables. Remember that Deadline-MP (mini pellets) is the improved formulation of metaldehyde that was introduced last year; it is smaller than the 'bullets' made previously but larger and more rainfast than the previous granular formulation.

Some Miscellaneous Problems

In sweet corn, in southern OH, some seedlings had Pythium, a post emergent damping off disease usually associated with poorly drained, excessively compacted, cold or wet soils. Always use treated seed, avoid wet areas and pick varieties for early plantings that germinate well and grow quickly after germination. Also, a few plants had definite flea beetle feeding and bacteria was found in the leaves indicating Stewart's bacterial wilt. Probably heavy flea beetle feeding on the youngest leaves caused this before the soil insecticide became effective. Follow the recommendations and consult the reference mentioned in the above article.

Treflan injury was observed on cabbage in southwest OH. Symptoms: Inhibits root and shoot growth. Initial effect is first seen on root growth especially with the lack

of development of secondary roots developing out of the plug. In severe cases, roots can be thickened and stubby. The problem was enhanced by wet and compacted soil conditions.

Crop Reports

Brad Bergefurd, Thom Harker, Hal Kneen, Ron Overmyer, Tom Wall

South.

Locally soils are warming up and drying out. Many fields are drying to the point where they can be worked and crops planted. If conditions remain hot and windy irrigation may be required for crop establishment. Asparagus growth is such that daily picking is now required.

SouthWest.

Close to 4 weeks worth of work has been performed in the past 10 days in our area. The nights have been filled with tractor lights working ground and planting just about around the clock to make up for lost time in April and May.

Some growers are reporting that their Sweet corn plantings look the best at this time than they have for years. They contribute this to the warmer than usual temperatures we have had this spring. Sweet corn is about 6 inches tall. Plastic corn, planted in the end of February, is about knee high.

Planting of peppers began in full force this week for both processing and fresh market. Planting of cabbage, tomatoes, melons, squash, eggplant, sweet corn etc. continues. Problems that are occurring include rhizoctonia (wirestem) on cabbage in the field, Botrytis on cabbage plants in the greenhouse, aphids on pepper plants in the greenhouse which has caused some leaf curl, cucumber beetle feeding on melon plants and treflan injury (stunting) on cabbage.

At the research plots in Hillsboro we have planted the Indian Corn variety trials, Staked tomato disease control and TOMCAST trial, and many trials are ready to be planted once we dry out from the storm last night (a little over 1/2 inch) with much wind and lightening. The Hillsboro CR 10 TOMCAST unit was started on May 14.

SouthEast.

Tomatoes are being trellised, staked and suckers are being removed. Small fruit are forming. Early blight has been seen at two locations. The TomCast was at 14 Disease Severity Values in Racine as of May 19 and growers are applying their first fungicide spray. Most fresh market peppers being planted at this time and the first crop of melons is also in. Cabbage is forming heads and early cabbage has heads the size of softballs.

Insects: ECB moths- helio trap, 2 from May 12-16; 9 from May 16 to 19, CEW moths, 1 from May 12 - 16.

Adult Colorado potato beetles found on both potato and tomato plants laying eggs.

Flea beetles found on sweet corn and tomato plants.

No variegated cutworms in tomatoes.

NorthWest.

Pickling cucumber planting started on Monday 5/18. Most will probably be planted by the weekend. Transplanted cabbage for fresh market is mostly planted. Some

seeded cabbage is being planted for the later market. One large processing tomato grower reported that they are about half planted. That is where they want to be at this time. The transplants look good.

Conditions are getting dry. A shower is needed to keep plants moving along and to get some crops up from seed.

Inside the VegNet Website:

Using The Vegetable Crops Planner, Part 1. Nexrad Radar Images.

The Vegetable Crops Planner provides links to various weather related websites. While we can't do much about the weather, knowledge of what's happening or about to happen can help us to better plan our horticultural activities. One set of links are Nexrad radar images provided by WSI Corporation. Ohio has two locations: Wilmington (Dayton) and Cleveland which together cover the state. The nexrad images, just like you see on TV weather, provide precise location and intensity of storms superimposed over a state county map but not in real time (usually less than 1 hour delay). From here, you can select "Regional Radar Summary" at the bottom of the nexrad images and this will show you cloud height and direction of cell movement and speed in knots. These images are now updated about every hour and you can use you them to determine if you have time to spray, plant, harvest, etc. Selection of "Regional Radar" shows precipitation as rain, freezing rain or snow and is now updated hourly. To determine the correct time of the image you are looking at, look for the clock in the upper right or left hand side of the image. Subtract 4 hours during daylight savings and 5 hours during standard time to get the valid time of the image (based on 24 hour clock). All nexrad images are from WSI Corporation.

What's New At The VegNet Web Site

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

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

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.

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Keith L. Smith, Director, Ohio State University Extension.

All educational programs and activities conducted by Ohio State University Extension are available to all potential clientele on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, creed, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, sex, age, handicap or Vietnam-era veteran status.