

VegNet Vol. 6, No. 23, August 25, 1999
Ohio State University Extension Vegetable Crops

Insect News
C. Welty

Trap reports available in new format:

Reports of vegetable pest population monitoring with traps are once more available through either the OSU VegNet web page (<http://www.ag.ohio-state.edu/~vegnet/>) or through the OSU IPM web page (<http://www.ag.ohio-state.edu/~ipm/>). For each pest, we now have all locations in a single table with one report per location per week. Thanks to Bruce Eisley of the IPM office who has set this up and will update it each week.

Corn earworm / tomato fruitworm alert:

The large increase in corn earworm (also known as tomato fruitworm) moth activity that we reported last week has continued this week. The number of earworm moths per pheromone trap in past week was 4 in Meigs Co., 128 in Columbus, 173 and 69 in Wayne Co., 22 in Summit Co., 51 in Huron Co., and 56 and 24 in Sandusky Co. As detailed in the 1999 Ohio Veg. Production Guide (p. 196), the suggested spray schedule for silking sweet corn is every 4 days if trap catch exceeds 90 moths per week and temperatures are below 80F. Sprays on sweet corn should be directed to the ear zone. On tomatoes, the moths lay eggs on leaves on the upper third of the plant. Eggs hatch in several days and larvae bore into green fruit. In tomato fields where eggs are found, insecticide should be applied at 7 to 10 day intervals. The target of sprays is young larvae that have just hatched from eggs, before they enter tomato fruit.

European corn borer:

The number of borer moths had just begun to decline in traps last week, but early this week there has been a huge increase that suggests we could be seeing emergence of a new batch of moths that will produce a third generation of larvae in September. We should know by next week whether or not a new generation is underway. In years when there is a third generation, damage to peppers and late sweet corn is usually severe unless an insecticide spray schedule is maintained throughout the time that the moths are active.

Sales tax urged on agricultural chemicals

Abstracted From Environmental News Network

Tuesday, July 13, 1999,

From: Joe Kovach, IPM

Friends of the Earth and an alliance of environmental, farm and consumer groups are requesting that officials in 29 states impose a sales tax on agricultural chemicals such as pesticides and insecticides.

About \$674 million is lost each year because of the exemptions, according to a recent report endorsed by the alliance members. That money, they say, should be used for sustainable agriculture, family farms and conservation education. The alliance includes the Alabama Rivers Alliance, Environmental League of Massachusetts, Florida Certified Organic Growers and Consumers (Florida Organic Growers), Hoosier Environmental Council of Indiana, Massachusetts Public Interest Research Group, Safer Pest Control Project of Illinois and the Vermont Public Interest Research Group.

"Our strategy is getting the exemptions removed on the chemicals and earmarking the funds for sustainable agriculture and other programs that would support family farmers," said Valerie Frances, author of the report.

One focus of the report is on the health and environmental problems caused by using pesticides and fertilizers in agriculture. Because farmers utilize the chemicals and they are a source of pollution, the coalition believes farmers should pay to clean up the damage from the chemicals. The report estimates nationwide health and environmental costs as a consequence of pesticide use to be about \$8 billion a year. "We are not worried about exemptions that have nothing to do with pollution," said Frances. "Friends of the Earth wants to see economic policies that affirm environmental health."

The report lists the 10 states losing the most potential revenue: Minnesota (\$65 million); Texas (\$62 million); Illinois (\$59 million); California (\$54 million); Florida (\$50 million); Indiana (\$45 million); Washington (\$36 million); Kansas (\$36 million); Ohio (\$35 million) and Missouri (\$27 million). "If the overall amount of money lost was directed toward sustainable agriculture, it would be a huge boost," said Frances.

The report also suggests several options for state officials to develop a sales tax to meet their state's specific needs. These include reducing property tax assessment rates on farmland; supporting successful estate transitions to the next generation of farmers; creating or increasing statewide programs which pay farmers to practice environmentally friendly farming and providing funding to help farmers transform their crops to organic.

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Crop Reports

w. Evans and H. Kneen

Southeast:

Welcomed rainfall has arrived in the region on a broad weather front. Most vegetable crops have been harvested and remains disked under and planted into cover crops of barley. Late season sweet corn, tomatoes and beans look good. Need to have a late frost date to maximize yields.

Stories of animal damaged plants surfaced during conversations with growers during last week's Meigs County Fair. Sweet corn damaged by turkeys (large flocks -

15-30 birds), crows, raccoons and blackbirds. Tomatoes were damaged by birds especially crows and blackbirds, looking for water? Deer, ground hogs, and geese eating young seedlings. Farmers need to report damage to local Ohio Dept. Natural Resources -Wildlife officers. Pumpkin crop is maturing. Production is varied depending upon planting dates and whether fields were irrigated.

NorthCentral

Crops in Celeryville continue to have good to excellent quality. This last storm has missed the area, dropping less than 0.5 inches of rain. Greens, onions, peppers and tomatoes are all in great shape. We are seeing downy mildew on leafy crops and radishes, and bacterial disease on peppers and tomatoes. Whiteflies and thrips continue in high numbers. Our corn borer trap has caught a few moths for the first time in a month, implying the next generation has started its flight. Corn earworm numbers are also significant this week.

TOMCAST Report

J. Jasinski

DSV Hotline -1-800-228-2905

TOMCAST is a tomato disease forecasting network which many growers find aids in their timing of fungicide applications. As of August 24, the total TOMCAST DSV, are given for each station below:

The current stations and DSV counts as of August 24, 1999:

If you have further questions, please contact: J. Jasinski

at 937-454-5002 or

jasinski.4@osu.edu

The 7-10 Day Outlook*

Temperature:

From 25 Aug to 30 Aug, the mean surface temperature will be 60 to 70 degrees for all of OH, except in the extreme south central counties where the temperatures will average 70 to 80 degrees.

From 30 Aug to 04 Sep, the mean surface temperature will be 60 to 70 degrees for all of OH.

Precipitation:

From 25 Aug to 30 Aug, expect about 0.5 to 1.0 inches for the northeeast quarter of OH, and expect 0.5 inches for the rest of OH.

From 30 Aug to 04 Sep, expect 0.1 inches or less for all of Ohio..

During these periods, most of the precipitation will come from thunderstorms and rainfall levels can vary widely in the affected areas.

[Editors Note: Long term precipitation forecasts (5 days or more) are much less accurate than short term (the next 4 to 5 days)..]

What's New At The VegNet Web Site

Visit "The Talk Between The Rows" Did You Make It To 'The Horticultural Field Night' in Hillsboro??

If not, take the Virtual Tour. See: tomatoes, pumpkins, melons and more.

Visit "Problem Of The Week", See: Watermelon Mosaic Virus Symptoms on Pumpkin Leaves, Revisited

Muck Crops DAY

If you didn't make the tour, take the virtual tour.

See: Lettuce, green onions, parsley and more.

Visit "Problem Of The Week", See: Spider Mites On Pumpkin Leaves
The Washington/Meigs Vegetable Tour

If you didn't make the tour, take the virtual tour. The Washington-Meigs Annual Twilight Vegetable Tour was held June 23. at Witten Farms, Take the virtual tour and see sweet corn, tomatoes, melons and more.

"Problem Of The Week from July 1"

See:

Command Carryover Damage on Tomatoes

Bacterial Wilt in Melons

Drought Conditions

A New Section to VegNet

This week see our newest section: Vegetable Pest Trap Summary

Here you can review the trap counts of various pests from around the state.

You can get to it from the main homepage.

Impatiens Necrotic Spot on Pepper Transplants

1999 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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