

Harvesting and Storing Pumpkins R. Precheur

Temperature, 50 to 55 F.

Relative Humidity: 50 to 75%.

Pumpkins should be well matured before harvest and storage. Handle carefully, cut and bruises in the rind are open to decay organisms that cause a great deal of loss from rots in a short period of time. Cure pumpkins after harvest at a temperature of 80-85 degrees for 10 days with a relative humidity of about 80-85%. This is usually accomplished using stove or artificial heat or can be done right in the field if the weather cooperates. At the end of curing, lower the humidity to 70% and keep the temperature between 50 and 60 degrees. Keep the surface dry during storage. Temperatures above 60 degrees F tend to keep the respiration rate too high, and considerable loss in weight results. Pumpkins are susceptible to chilling injury (below 50 degrees) and prolonged exposure to chilling temperatures will result in injury and lead to breakdown of the fruit, especially from alternaria rot. Any dry place with good air circulation and where proper temperatures can be maintained is desirable. Pumpkins keep best when not piled on top of each other. Most varieties of pumpkins do not keep so well as hard shelled winter squashes but with proper handling they can be expected to last for 2 to 3 months at temperatures of 50 to 55 degrees F. If you have to keep pumpkins for an extended period of time, check for signs of rot and discard them so the healthy pumpkins are not affected.

Insect News C. Welty

European corn borer is causing considerable damage to peppers and sweet corn, and heavy borer pressure is likely to continue for several more weeks. Catch of corn borer moths in blacklight trap at Fremont shows continued emergence of new moths (926 moths in past week, up from 326 the previous week) that are producing third generation larvae. Peppers evaluated yesterday at Fremont were infested mostly by full-grown second generation borer larvae, and some small third generation borer larvae. Damage is heavy in untreated plots, as expected, but is heavier than usual in plots sprayed weekly with Orthene or SpinTor. Growers are advised to keep up a weekly insecticide program as long as moths are active. Corn earworm moths are active in most locations, but their numbers are down from the high levels of several weeks ago; the catch in pheromone traps this past week ranged from 4 to 58 earworm moths.

Crop Reports

Ron Becker, B. Bergefurd, W. Evans, T. Harker, H. Kneen

Southeast:

There is a flight of corn earworm, 58 last week, plus 23 already this week. The last sweet corn is in tassel. The last snap beans are in flower. Barley is being planted for cover crop on many fields. Still dry in many locations and rain is needed. Tomato harvest for those growers who go full season. Pumpkin harvest has begun but the crop is light due to the early drought.

Wayne County.

Despite cooler temperatures and miticide applications, two-spotted spider mites continue to be a problem. However, they have gone from watermelons and moved primarily into tomatoes and eggplant. This has occurred on several farms in Wayne and surrounding counties. Several different miticides have been used over the past three weeks with little success.

European corn borer larvae are being found in sweet corn and peppers. Even corn that was on a three to four day spray schedule still had borer damage, mostly at the tips of the ears. Earworm has also been a problem despite fairly tight spray schedules.

In pumpkins, growers are still providing fairly good mildew control, though some patches are starting to die down. Black and fusarium fruit rots have been noted in several fields.

NorthCentral.

European corn borer counts are the highest this season, with over 50 moths per night being trapped since the Labor Day holiday. Other insect pressures are stable or diminishing. Flea beetle damage is declining. Leaf hoppers are still present, although aster yellows incidence remains low.

Almost no rain has fallen in the Celeryville area for two weeks. Irrigation runs around the clock. There was sufficient soil moisture in late August to establish late plantings of greens, so those will be fine if we get some rain to finish them.

Some fungal problems (powdery mildew and perhaps downy mildew) have been seen in area pumpkins and squash.

SouthWest.

Processing Red Bell Pepper Harvest is in full swing. Receiving stations began to take the first peppers about 2 weeks ago. Quality for the most part has been fair to good. Some Sunburn and Blossom End Rot showing up and some growers fruit size has been reduced because of the dry summer. Depending on the first hard frost, most growers are estimating the crop to be 1/2 to 3/4 of a normal crop. Normal yields range from 12 to 18 ton per acre. Pumpkin harvest has begun! The first pumpkins arrived at the Bainbridge Wholesale Produce Auction last week. Prices are averaging above last year. Fruit quality has been good but size of pumpkins has been reduced on non irrigated fields. Estimates are that most yields will be down from last year. Many fields need another 2 to 4 weeks to size up and color fruit. These were fields that the seed laid in the ground for 3 to 6 weeks before germination due to the dry weather conditions and no measurable rain during this planting period.

Powdery Mildew pressure is great now. In unprotected fields the disease is rapidly spreading. Harvest of summer squash, green bell peppers, cukes, sweet corn, tomatoes, cabbage, melons and watermelons continues. Wholesale and Retail Prices for these commodities have increased slightly and good demand for product continues. Some areas received around 1/2 inch of rainfall over the Labor Day weekend. This has been the first measurable rainfall in over 13 days, when some areas received 4 to 7 inches of rain in a 2 to 4 hour period. This did bring on some Phytophthora in pumpkin, melon and squash fields but the dry weather has slowed the progress of this disease.

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 September 8, 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 09 Sep to 14 Sep, the mean surface temperature will be 50 to 60 degrees for all of OH.

From 14 Sep to 19 Sep, the mean surface temperature will be 50 to 60 degrees for all of OH.

Precipitation:

From 09 Sep to 14 Sep, expect about 0.1 to 0.2 inches for most of OH.

From 14 Sep to 19 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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