

Fusarium Fruit Rot of Pumpkins and Gourds
R. Precheur

In the last issue of VegNet in the Problem and Pest News section, I incorrectly identified the fruit rot problem occurring in pumpkins as Phytophthora Blight. Mac Riedel has set me straight and the problem affecting pumpkins and gourds is Fusarium Fruit or Belly Rot. The incidence of the disease is widespread through central and northern OH. The typical symptoms are a white to pink mold like growth on the bottom of the fruit where it is resting on the soil. In advanced stages, when lifting the fruit, part of the fruit will separate and stick to the ground. The fruit will rapidly collapse once it has reached this stage. For pictures of fruit symptoms, visit 'Problem of The Week' at the VegNet website:

During harvest, growers should check the bottom of the fruit for any mold growth that is pink or light pink to white in color or general softening of the bottom. These fruit should not be packed as they will rot quickly and spoil a load of pumpkins. Mac says, that despite the dry weather, the high temperatures and the little bit of soil moisture we had near the surface at the end of the year have been ideal conditions for this disease to develop. The bellies of the fruit trapped this moisture allowing development of the disease.

Dr. Riedel would like to remind gourd growers who save their own seed that the disease can be transmitted by seed. Also, Riedel reminds any grower who experienced high fruit loss (greater than 50%) that the disease will overwinter and they must practice rotation to avoid future problems. A rotation of at least 4 years is recommended with either small grains or corn crops.

Flint, New Fungicide for Cucurbits (R. Riedel)
R. M. Riedel

Flint is a new broad spectrum fungicide for control of Powdery Mildew and Downy Mildew in cucurbits (chayote, Chinese waxgourd, citron melon, cucumber, gherkin, edible gourds, muskmelon, pumpkin, summer squash, winter squash and watermelon). Flint may be applied up to the day of harvest but do not apply more than 16 oz of Flint per season. Do not exceed more than 4 total applications. Quadris and Flint are fungicides of similar chemistry and they are to be rotated with other fungicides of different chemistry to control development of fungicide resistance to their family of chemicals. See the label for rates, and all other restrictions and instructions.

W. Evans, H. Kneen

Southeast:

Vegetable crops are winding down in the area with a few fields of late sweet corn, tomatoes and beans. Cooler temperatures especially nights are slowing down maturation. Sweet corn fields are being exposed to large numbers of corn earworm moths and fall armyworm. Local farm markets should have limited supplies of sweet corn, peppers, green beans and tomatoes until frost. Earlier harvested tomato fields are having their strings cut, stakes pulled and debris matter plowed under.

Pumpkin crop is very poor with yields expected to be below 20% of average yields in number. Pumpkin weights are low- thin rinds? Late season weeds have taken over some fields as spring applied herbicides have worn off. Still need additional rainfall both for current remaining crops and for the cover crops already sown.

NorthCentral.

Temperatures reached 30 degrees Wednesday morning and while some fields were nipped by frost, many are in good condition.

The dry weather bodes well for pumpkin and squash harvest in the north central region but growers are still reporting mildew. They are again reminded to keep up appropriate sprays. One grower reported bleached, soft areas on the top of his curing acorn squash. This was likely sunscald from the 90+ F temperatures. The damaged fruit will not recover and already showed signs of secondary infections coming in to start the decay process.

Flea beetle numbers are down at the branch. Some cover crops have been sown on area farms.

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 September 24, the total TOMCAST DSV, are given for each station below:

The current stations and DSV counts as of September 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 24 Sep to 29 Sep, the mean surface temperature will be 60 to 70 degrees for all of OH.

From 29 Sep to 04 Oct, the mean surface temperature will be 60 to 70 degrees for all of OH.

>> Expect temperatures in the mid to upper 30's around Oct 4 & 5.

Precipitation:

From 24 Sep to 29 Sep, expect less than 0.1 inches for the western one third of OH, 0.1 to 0.3 inches in the central third running north to south and 0.3 to 0.5 inches for the eastern one third of OH.

From 29 Sep to 04 Oct, expect about 0.6 to 1.0 inches for most of OH except in a band from Columbus to eastern OH expect about 0.5 inches.

[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

In: "Problem Of The Week" See: Fusarium Fruit Rot in Pumpkins

Visit "The Vegetable Team" See a List of 1999 Vegetable Research Projects

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.

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.

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