

VegNet Vol. 6, No. 8, May 12, 1999
Ohio State University Extension Vegetable Crops

TOMCAST
J. Jasinski

It's that time of the year again when thousands of tomato transplants hit the field, and the battle of raising disease and insect free fruit begins! Luckily, processing and fresh market growers in certain areas of OH, IN, and MI can rely on a disease forecasting program called TOMCAST to help them time their fungicide applications. There are fourteen weather stations in the network which provide information to drive the model predictions, but only five are operational as of May 12. The rest will be functioning within the week. The TOMCAST model output is in the form of a Disease Severity Value (DSV) ranging from 0-4. When 15-20 DSV accumulate at a specific location, a fungicide is recommended to protect both foliage and/or fruit from diseases such as early blight, anthracnose, and Septoria leaf spot. A thorough explanation of how TOMCAST operates can be found in the 1999 Ohio Vegetable Production Guide, which is also online at VegNet homepage.

The most current DSV information can be obtained via the DSV Hotline (800-228-2905), a 24 hour answering machine message, broadcast over DTN and FarmDayta systems, the TOMCAST homepage (www.ag.ohio-state.edu/~vegnet), or weekly right here in the VegNet newsletter.

If you have further questions, please contact: J. Jasinski
at 937-454-5002 or
jasinski.4@osu.edu

The current stations and DSV counts as of May 11, 1999:

Crop Reports

B. Bergefurd, B. Evans, T Harker, H. Kneen

NorthCentral:

Conditions continue dry in the Celeryville area. We missed last weeks rains and are irrigating seeded and transplanted crops. A muck storm last Thursday cut through some radishes, onions and the branch's carrots a bit. The wind left accumulations of up to 1 inch of loose muck in wheel tracks between beds. We continue to hope for rain before the next high winds. Carrot weevils, flea beetles and some cutworms are being seen this week. Plastic mulch is being put down for peppers, etc. The first radishes are close to harvest.

SouthEast:

Experiencing drought like conditions. Irrigating sweet corn, tomatoes and cabbage. Hoping for showers on 13 May. Tomatoes starting to bloom in the field and most

growers have started to set tomato stakes but have not trellised yet since plants are too small. Peppers is well underway at this time. Waiting for moisture before setting many melon transplants. Imported cabbage worm larvae found on cabbage. Finding about 4-6 flea beetles per sweet corn plant and aphids on tomatoes. Biological predators such as lady beetles and larvae and lacewings are being found in fields. Weeds: Ragweed and lambsquarter are 2-4 inches tall. Purslane and galinsoga are about 2 inches.

SouthWest

Flea beetle feeding has diminished on sweet corn and cole crops due to the high heat levels. Plastic corn stands 12 - 14 inches tall. Planting of processing peppers began this week. Melons and cukes planting has begun in full swing over the past weekend. Planting of sweet corn, green beans, tomatoes, peppers, squash, cabbage, melons and indian corn continues. Main concern is the very dry soil conditions being experienced and the hard soils from a lack of rain. This is making laying plastic difficult. Those that laid plastic 2 weeks ago made a good move by trapping moisture. Soil under plastic being laid now is very dry! Hope for some rain. Cucumber beetles are feeding on early melon, and squash plantings. Potato beetles have been seen in tomato and potato plantings.

Farmer Direct Marketing Newsletter - April/May, 1999

<http://www.ams.usda.gov/directmarketing/newsletter.htm>

This is an interesting newsletter with detailed information on direct marketing. The newsletter started in November, 1998 and contains information on programs from USDA of national interest and also covers local projects and issues. At the end of the article are the topics from the latest issue. Just below, is part of a welcome message from Dr. Enrique E. Figueroa, Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service
Welcome to the latest edition of the Farmer Direct Marketing Website On-line Newsletter!

The Internet is becoming an increasingly valuable method of disseminating and collecting information. For example, at a recent farmer direct marketing focus group held at the North American Farmer Direct Marketing Association Conference, participants were given a demonstration of the Website. In turn, participants suggested that we compile and make available a list of the State or regional farmers market and direct marketing associations along with a brief description of their activities and membership benefits. This feature will be added in coming months. The Farmer Direct Marketing Website fulfills one of the objectives of the Agricultural Marketing Service's (AMS) recently adopted Farmer Direct Marketing Action Plan. More importantly, the Farmer Direct Marketing Website is one way by which AMS has responded to the policy goals outlined in The National Commission on Small Farm's 1998 Report "A Time to Act". AMS recognizes the importance of its role in protecting the vitality of America's small farms and affirms its commitment to the delivery of quality service to these producers. Although the Internet will not become our only mechanism to meet the needs of farmer direct marketers, we will

continue to expand our use of this new and exciting technology to distribute timely, accurate, and interesting information to direct marketers throughout the U.S.

April/May, 1999 Newsletter Contents:

USDA Activities:

The USDA sponsored Santa Fe Farmers Market Conference;

Agricultural Marketing Outreach Workshop for Limited Resource Farmers -

Information and Remarks by Under Secretary Michael V. Dunn

Update on the Burlington, VT, Public Market Feasibility Study

Report on USDA Farmer Direct Marketing Focus Groups Held in Memphis, TN

Features:

1997 Census of Agriculture and Direct Marketing;

Announcements:

"Law and the New Agriculture: Direct Marketing and Local Food Systems" - Neil Hamilton of Drake University's 4-day course to be offered this summer ;

Community Food Security Coalition Workshops New in Print/Audio -

Publications/Tapes about Direct Marketing:

Getting Food on the Table: An Action Guide to Local Food Policy (Community Food Security Coalition);

From the Field to the Table: Suggested Food Handling Guidelines for Open-Air Farmers' Markets and Fairs (ECONOMICS Institute);

Audio Tapes from "Cultivating the Harvest: Inland Northwest Small Acreage Farming Conference

New Publication on The Use of Cover Crops for Vegetable Production (from Cornell Cooperative Extension)

Cover crops protect and improve the soil but using them in vegetable production systems presents challenges. A new publication from Cornell, Use of Cover Crops for Vegetable Production in the Northeast, helps commercial growers turn those challenges into benefits.

This 12-page information bulletin presents the latest research-based information on varieties and procedures to reap the benefits including: the addition of organic matter to soils, improvement of soil tilth and remediation of compaction, protection of soil from wind and water erosion, recycling plant nutrients, increasing the biological activity of soil, retention of soil moisture and suppression of weeds, insects, pathogens, and nematodes. The bulletin was written by Lee Stivers, area extension vegetable. It includes color photos and management tips.

Copies of Use of Cover Crops for Vegetable Production in the Northeast may be obtained for \$3.99 from the

Cornell University Resource Center,
8 Business & Technology Park,
Ithaca, NY 14850.

This includes postage and handling.

For more information, contact:

Carol J. Doolittle,

Media and Technology Services,

1150 Comstock Hall,
Cornell Univ.,
Ithaca, NY 14853,
Voice: 607/255-5830;
Fax: 607/255-9873

The 7-10 Day Outlook*

The 7-10 Day Outlook*

Temperature:

From 12 May to 17 May, the mean surface temperature will be 60-70 degrees F for all of OH except the extreme northeast will be 50 to 60 degrees.

From 17 May to 22 May, the mean surface temperature will be 70-80 degrees for all of OH.

Precipitation:

From 12 May to 17 May, expect less than 0.1 inches in northeast and northcentral OH, expect 0.1 to 0.5 inches in a band through most of central OH and expect 0.5 to 1.0 in extreme south west OH.

From 17 May to 22 May, expect 0.5 to 1.0 inches for all of OH.

AKRON-CANTON

DAY DATE | FRI 14| SAT 15| SUN 16| MON 17| TUE 18| WED 19

TEMP

MIN/MAX | 48 64| 50 74| 54 79| 58 81| 61 82| 59 81|

PREC PROB

24 HRS | 34 | 20 | 25 | 31 | 36 | 39 |

CLEVELAND

DAY DATE | FRI 14| SAT 15| SUN 16| MON 17| TUE 18| WED 19|

TEMP

MIN/MAX | 49 62| 49 73| 55 77| 58 79| 59 80| 59 80|

PREC PROB

24 HRS | 29 | 19 | 25 | 32 | 35 | 38 |

COLUMBUS

DAY DATE | FRI 14| SAT 15| SUN 16| MON 17| TUE 18| WED 19|

TEMP

MIN/MAX | 50 65| 51 76| 57 80| 59 84| 61 83| 60 82|

PREC PROB

24 HRS | 53 | 27 | 26 | 31 | 35 | 37 |

CINCINNATI

DAY DATE | FRI 14| SAT 15| SUN 16| MON 17| TUE 18| WED 19|

TEMP

MIN/MAX | 52 68| 56 77| 59 80| 62 82| 63 81| 60 81|

PREC PROB

24 HRS | 68 | 33 | 28 | 31 | 35 | 36 |

DAYTON

DAY DATE | FRI 14| SAT 15| SUN 16| MON 17| TUE 18| WED 19|

TEMP

MIN/MAX | 50 65| 52 74| 56 79| 60 83| 62 80| 60 80|

PREC PROB

24 HRS | 59 | 30 | 27 | 32 | 35 | 36 |

TOLEDO

DAY DATE | FRI 14| SAT 15| SUN 16| MON 17| TUE 18| WED 19|

TEMP

MIN/MAX | 47 67| 50 75| 54 79| 58 81| 58 82| 58 81|

PREC PROB

24 HRS | 34 | 23 | 29 | 34 | 36 | 37 |

YOUNGSTOWN

DAY DATE | FRI 14| SAT 15| SUN 16| MON 17| TUE 18| WED 19|

TEMP

MIN/MAX | 43 65| 46 74| 53 80| 56 81| 57 82| 57 81|

PREC PROB

24 HRS | 25 | 17 | 25 | 31 | 35 | 38 |

WEST VIRGINIA CHARLESTON

DAY DATE | FRI 14| SAT 15| SUN 16| MON 17| TUE 18| WED 19|

TEMP

MIN/MAX | 52 64| 54 76| 57 82| 60 84| 61 87| 62 84|

PREC PROB

24 HRS | 67 | 39 | 28 | 32 | 44 | 41 |

* LEGEND:

TEMP MIN/MAX - forecasted minimum and maximum temperature
for time periods

midnight to noon and noon to midnight.

PREC. PROB. 24 - probability of precipitation for the 24
hour period.

What's New At The VegNet Web Site

Research Reports

1998 se Sweet Corn Variety Trial

1998 Fresh Market Cabbage Cultivar Evaluation

1998 Fresh Market Vegetable Reports from the Enterprise Center at Piketon.

1998 Colored Pepper Cultivar Trial

1998 Fresh Market Tomato Cultivar Evaluation

Evaluation of Eastern Style MuskMelons for Southern Ohio, 1998
Mechanical Harvesting Regimes for Processing Bell Pepper Production in Ohio
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.
1999 Ohio Vegetable Production Guide - Online. Visit: "The Library
>> 1998 Pumpkin Yield Data is Here!...Plus the First Set of Pumpkin Pictures

See how your favorite varieties performed.
Check out new varieties.
View Powdery Mildew Tolerance ratings
plus the effects of spray programs on pumpkin production. More pumpkin pictures coming.

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.