

## Frost On The Pumpkin R. Precheur

It appears the 2000 growing season will come to a rapid conclusion this weekend with nighttime low temperatures predicated to be in the mid to upper 20's. For central OH this freeze is about 2-3 weeks earlier than a normal year. Snow showers are also predicted for Saturday and that would be close to the earliest recorded snowfall.

Many pumpkin growers still have fruit in the field and are concerned about their pumpkins after exposure to several hard freezes. The best advice is to bring the fruit into shelter, a difficult task considering the recent heavy rains and soggy fields. If the fruit are piled together, covering them with a heavy tarp will provide some protection. The use of plastic to cover fruit will offer little or no protection. In the future, once pumpkin fruit have matured, cut them off the vine to cure them. This helps to set or harden the skin and they will be less sensitive to low temperature.

What to expect:

The exposed surfaces of the fruit injured by the frost will probably develop a reddish, brown color and the skin will have a blister like appearance. Prolonged exposure to low temperature (35-40 F) may cause chilling injury causing soft spots to develop on the fruit that become infected causing fruit rots that shorten shelf life.

Bottom Line:

Expect discolored fruit, more fruit rots and shorter shelf life. Some fruit will be OK.

## EPA Strategic Plan

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) developed its 2000 - 2005 Strategic Plan to serve as a road map for taking the Agency into the 21st century. Our Strategic Plan lays out the Agency's ten long-term goals and guides us in establishing the annual goals we will need to meet along the way. It allows us to measure how far we have come towards achieving our goals and to recognize where we need to adjust our approaches or directions. Finally, it provides a basis from which EPA's managers can focus resources on the highest priority environmental issues and assure that we use taxpayer dollars effectively to achieve environmental results.

The following goals were taken from the Strategic Plan:

Goal 1: Clean Air.

The air in every American community will be safe and healthy to breathe. In particular, children, the elderly, and people with respiratory ailments will be protected from health risks of breathing polluted air. Reducing air pollution will also protect the environment, resulting in many benefits, such as restoring life in

damaged ecosystems and reducing health risks to those whose subsistence depends directly on those ecosystems.

#### Goal 2: Clean and Safe Water.

All Americans will have drinking water that is clean and safe to drink. Effective protection of America's rivers, lakes, wetlands, aquifers, and coastal and ocean waters will sustain fish, plants, and wildlife, as well as recreational, subsistence, and economic activities. Watersheds and their aquatic ecosystems will be restored and protected to improve public health, enhance water quality, reduce flooding, and provide habitat for wildlife.

#### Goal 3: Safe Food.

The foods Americans eat will be free from unsafe pesticide residues. Particular attention will be given to protecting sub-populations that may be more susceptible to adverse effects of pesticides or have higher dietary exposures to pesticide residues. These include children and people whose diets include large amounts of noncommercial foods.

#### Goal 4: Preventing Pollution and Reducing Risk in Communities, Homes, Workplaces, and Ecosystems.

Pollution prevention and risk management strategies aimed at eliminating, reducing, or minimizing emissions and contamination will result in cleaner and safer environments in which all Americans can reside, work, and enjoy life. EPA will safeguard ecosystems and promote the health of natural communities that are integral to the quality of life in this nation.

#### Goal 5: Better Waste Management, Restoration of Contaminated Waste Sites, and Emergency Response.

America's wastes will be stored, treated, and disposed of in ways that prevent harm to people and the natural environment. EPA will work to clean up previously polluted sites, restore them to uses appropriate for surrounding communities, and respond to and prevent waste-related or industrial accidents.

#### Goal 6: Reduction of Global and Cross-Border Environmental Risks.

The United States will lead other nations in successful, multilateral efforts to reduce significant risks to human health and ecosystems from climate change, stratospheric ozone depletion, and other hazards of international concern.

#### Goal 7: Quality Environmental Information.

The public and decision makers at all levels will have access to information about environmental conditions and human health to inform decision making and help assess the general environmental health of communities. The public will also have access to educational services and information services and tools that provide for the reliable and secure exchange of quality environmental information.

#### Goal 8: Sound Science, Improved Understanding of Environmental Risk, and Greater Innovation to Address Environmental Problems.

EPA will develop and apply the best available science for addressing current and future environmental hazards as well as new approaches toward improving environmental protection.

#### Goal 9: A Credible Deterrent to Pollution and Greater Compliance with the Law.

EPA will ensure full compliance with laws intended to protect human health and the environment.

## Goal 10: Effective Management.

EPA will maintain the highest-quality standards for environmental leadership and for effective internal management and fiscal responsibility by managing for results.

Complete reports are available from the following websites.

<http://www.epa.gov/ocfopage/plan/2000strategicplan.pdf>

<http://www.epa.gov/ocfopage/plan/plan.htm>

## Crop Reports

Hal Kneen and Brad Bergefurd

Southeast: From Sep. 27, 2000.

Cool, wet weather has settled into the area this past weekend. Wednesday

September 27 the weather is clearing up but still cool, lows in the lower 40's.

Continue to harvest green ripe tomatoes and pumpkins. Pumpkin crop good size and quality if sprayed and on proper rotation. Continuous plantings and poor spray schedules have caused many acres of low yield pumpkins.

Cover crops are growing rapidly with the moisture and cooler temperatures. Lots of geese flying in to feed on young seedlings.

Southern and Southwest: From Sep. 27, 2000.

Rain has been the major issue the last 4 days. Some areas have received over 6 inches with most areas getting 3 to 5 inches between Friday and Tuesday.

Rains have slowed field operations and harvest. Harvest of red peppers for processing and fresh market, pumpkins, melons, watermelons, tomatoes, summer squash, winter squash, cabbage, cauliflower, gourds, mini pumpkins, cucumbers, pickles and beans continues.

Some bean leaf beetle damage is being found in green bean harvests. Cucumber beetles and squash bugs have been causing damage to pumpkins and squash by feeding on the exterior of the fruit. Tomato cracking has been severe with the heavy rains. Sweet corn, Indian Corn and CORN MAZES have received much lodging damage from the strong winds associated with the heavy storms. Some of these standability problems are due to corn borer damage but some is variety related. Phytophthora is being found in pumpkins and pepper. Virus streaking is showing up in mini pumpkins, pumpkins and gourds.

Wholesale and Retail Market prices remain high for most all summer produce with strong demand remaining for most crops. Pumpkin demand is high and buyer interest from within state and out of state is high. Wholesale prices have been averaging 10 to 15 cents per pound. Retail prices are in the .25 to .40 cent per pound range.

## The 7 Day Outlook\*

AKRON-CANTON

DAY DATE| SAT 07| SUN 08| MON 09| TUE 10| WED 11| THU 12|

TEMP

MIN/MAX| 38 45| 27 37| 24 41| 28 53| 37 61| 43 63|  
WIND | 10 12| 11 11| 9 10| 7 9| 6 8| 5 9|  
PREC  
PROB 24| 82 | 81 | 50 | 27 | 15 | 14 |

CLEVELAND

DAY DATE| SAT 07| SUN 08| MON 09| TUE 10| WED 11| THU 12|  
TEMP  
MIN/MAX| 38 45| 31 40| 30 43| 30 54| 39 63| 42 64|  
WIND | 9 9| 8 9| 6 9| 6 9| 6 8| 7 9|  
PREC  
PROB 24| 88 | 83 | 51 | 30 | 18 | 17 |

COLUMBUS

DAY DATE| SAT 07| SUN 08| MON 09| TUE 10| WED 11| THU 12|  
TEMP  
MIN/MAX| 39 47| 30 44| 23 44| 29 55| 38 64| 42 65|  
WIND | 8 9| 9 9| 6 7| 4 6| 3 5| 3 6|  
PREC  
PROB 24| 76 | 75 | 42 | 21 | 13 | 12 |

CINCINNATI

DAY DATE| SAT 07| SUN 08| MON 09| TUE 10| WED 11| THU 12|  
TEMP  
MIN/MAX| 35 46| 24 43| 26 46| 30 54| 41 64| 45 64|  
WIND | 9 12| 10 9| 6 9| 5 8| 5 8| 5 8|  
PREC  
PROB 24| 49 | 50 | 24 | 13 | 21 | 21 |

DAYTON

DAY DATE| SAT 07| SUN 08| MON 09| TUE 10| WED 11| THU 12|  
TEMP  
MIN/MAX| 36 44| 24 39| 22 43| 28 56| 38 64| 43 64|  
WIND | 10 11| 10 10| 6 7| 6 6| 5 6| 5 7|  
PREC  
PROB 24| 74 | 70 | 37 | 18 | 11 | 11 |

TOLEDO

DAY DATE| SAT 07| SUN 08| MON 09| TUE 10| WED 11| THU 12|  
TEMP  
MIN/MAX| 34 43| 31 43| 23 43| 28 54| 37 63| 38 65|  
WIND | 11 13| 10 11| 7 9| 6 10| 5 8| 6 8|  
PREC  
PROB 24| 86 | 74 | 37 | 19 | 10 | 9 |

YOUNGSTOWN

DAY DATE| SAT 07| SUN 08| MON 09| TUE 10| WED 11| THU 12|  
TEMP  
MIN/MAX| 37 46| 31 37| 26 41| 29 53| 37 62| 41 63|  
WIND | 9 10| 8 11| 7 8| 5 7| 5 7| 5 7|  
PREC  
PROB 24| 85 | 84 | 54 | 32 | 18 | 16 |

\* LEGEND:

TEMP MIN/MAX - forecasted minimum and maximum temperature  
for time periods midnight to noon and noon to midnight.

WIND - MEAN WIND SPEED(KTS) FOR TIME PERIODS 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

PSee last week's newsletter for Pictures of cucumber beetle feeding on pumpkin  
rind. (VegNet #27, Sept. 13, 2000)

In Problem of The Week, see:

\* Bird Damage to Pumpkin Fruit

\* Fusarium Belly Rot

Coming Soon...

\* Gummy Stem Blight

\* Downy Mildew

[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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