

## Farm Labor Activities

from Tom Sachs and Francisco Espinoza, Farm Labor Relations.

Periodically, we would like to make you aware of some of the issues regarding farm employers and farm workers in Ohio.

### 1) Farm Employer packets:

This is the time when many farm employers are actively recruiting seasonal migrant workers for the upcoming production season. Past employee shortages have made farm employers more proactive in their recruiting activities. These employers should be aware of the many labor law compliance issues dealing specifically with recruiting, hiring, and supervising seasonal migrant workers. Many farm employers also use minors as field workers. There are many rules and regulations concerning minor employment in the areas of work permits, record keeping, posting requirements, break times, and prohibited activities. The consequences to growers if minor labor laws are violated are significant. Specifically, the Fair Labor Standards Act "Hot Goods" provision will impound and prohibit the sale of any commodity proven to be harvested in violation of minor labor law. Once again, farm employers need to review their hiring and supervising procedures in these areas. The Farm Employer packet contains compliance information concerning recruitment, orientation and training, and supervision information. Contact us and we can mail you this information.

### 2) Farm employer consultations and group meetings

The Farm Labor Relations team is available for individual farm employer consultations or specific farm group meetings. We are available to answer questions regarding labor law compliance, labor camp housing issues, government services for migrant farm workers, etc.

### 3) Specific farm worker issues

If you have any specific farm labor issues in your area, let us know so that we may be of assistance.

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Using DIF To Control Vegetable Transplant Height

by R. Berghage, HortTech 8(4) pp 535-539. Bill Evans, Joe Takayama and R. Precheur

Internode length (space between the nodes or points of attachment of the leaves) is influenced by the difference between the day and night temperature referred to as DIF (Day temperature - Night Temperature). As DIF increases, so does internode length in most species. Control is primarily through increased night and reduced day temperature or low temperature pulses at or near the beginning of the day.

An example for controlling tomato seedling height follows:

1. Open vents at sunrise and cool greenhouse to a minimum of 50 degrees but do not let drop below 50 degrees.
2. Maintain cool temperatures for as long as possible during the day.
3. In most cases a morning temperature which is slightly lower than the night temperature (slight negative DIF) will produce good quality plants.

Cabbage, cucumber, pepper and tomatoes are some of the vegetables reported to respond to DIF.

Making It Work:

Growers can create a low temperature period by placing an incandescent light bulb attached to a standard household appliance timer next to the thermostat that runs their greenhouse heaters. By setting the timer so that the bulb comes on an hour before sunrise and goes off two hours later, growers can fake the heaters into thinking the house is warmer than it is by using the heat evolved from the light bulb. It is important to position the bulb properly in relation to the thermostat to achieve the desired temperature reduction without sending the greenhouse temperature so low (i.e. getting the thermostat so warm) as to damage the crop (including induction of bolting). Growers will want to experiment with bulb wattage and proximity to the thermostat, calibrating their system to the desired temperature during the cool period. The whole set up is usually placed in a tunnel box painted white. The cooling fan thermostat should be separate and away from the heater thermostat so the light bulb's heat does not cause the fans to come on and cool the house too much.

Crop Reports

H. Kneen,

SouthEast:

Showers occurred throughout the past week. Some field work was able to be done on Friday March 31 and Saturday- April 1. However since then, fields have been too wet to work.

Sidedressing and cultivating cabbage fields had been started but is on hold until drier weather.

Sweet corn continues to begin to be planted especially on gravelly and sandy soils near the Ohio River. Still too cold on soil in the upland fields.

Peppers and tomatoes transplants in the greenhouse are growing. Some signs of purpling of tomatoes leaves as growers are trying to hold back growth by dropping temperatures below sixty degrees Fahrenheit.

Cooler temperatures expected Tuesday night, lows in the upper 20's.

#### Recent USDA publications on Direct-Marketing

Claire Klotz, Economist, USDA - Wholesale and Alternative Markets,

There are a few new USDA publications which might be of interest:

"Direct Marketing Today: Challenges and Opportunities" is now available on the Web in PDF format at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/directmarketing/DirectMar2.pdf>

This publication, in cooperation with Cornell University Extension discusses the results of focus groups (with producers and facilitators) about direct marketing hosted by USDA. A print publication will be available soon and can be ordered in advance from Velma Lakins at [velma.lakins@usda.gov](mailto:velma.lakins@usda.gov)

Also available: "Small Farmer Success Story" - 4 Bulletins. The four bulletins describe a project through which a group of limited-resource growers in the northern Florida area formed a cooperative to market fresh produce to local school districts. The bulletins outline the experiences of the New North Florida Cooperative, now in its third school year of operation.

They are available in PDF format at

<http://www.ams.usda.gov/tmd/mta/publications.htm> (Scroll down to select the publication/bulletin of your choice) The link also has information on how to order a print copy.

#### The 7 Day Outlook\*

##### AKRON-CANTON

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

TEMP

MIN MAX| 40 65| 42 47| 33 52| 36 60| 41 61| 39 59|

PREC

PROB 24| 39 | 90 | 39 | 32 | 45 | 37 |

##### CLEVELAND

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

TEMP

MIN MAX| 40 60| 39 47| 33 50| 37 57| 41 59| 39 57|

PREC

PROB 24| 44 | 92 | 40 | 32 | 45 | 36 |

##### COLUMBUS

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

TEMP

MIN MAX| 42 66| 43 48| 33 55| 37 62| 43 64| 42 62|

PREC

PROB 24| 45 | 87 | 34 | 31 | 43 | 35 |

CINCINNATI

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

TEMP

MIN MAX| 47 68| 42 50| 35 57| 42 66| 46 65| 42 67|

PREC

PROB 24| 52 | 79 | 29 | 31 | 43 | 35 |

DAYTON

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

TEMP

MIN MAX| 44 65| 41 48| 34 54| 39 61| 44 61| 43 60|

PREC

PROB 24| 54 | 85 | 33 | 32 | 44 | 36 |

TOLEDO

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

TEMP

MIN MAX| 38 56| 37 49| 32 53| 36 58| 41 60| 38 57|

PREC

PROB 24| 59 | 89 | 40 | 33 | 46 | 36 |

YOUNGSTOWN

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

TEMP

MIN MAX| 38 62| 42 47| 33 50| 34 59| 40 61| 37 59|

PREC

PROB 24| 36 | 91 | 40 | 32 | 45 | 37 |

\* 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

Pumpkin Production Chart

Originally available only in the print version of the 2000 Ohio Vegetable Production Guide, this WEB version can be found in "The Pumpkin Patch" The chart is a quick guide and timeline to key factors necessary for a successful pumpkin crop.

Another NEW! VegWeb Fact Sheet.

Table on Susceptibility of sweet corn hybrids to Stewart's Bacterial Wilt as rated by Jerald Pataky (Univ. of Illinois). Adapted by Dr. Celeste Welty, Extension Entomology, OSU Columbus. This table was published in last week's VegNet Newsletter. A WEB edition is now available from the VegNet homepage. More information on Stewart's wilt and its history in Ohio will be available soon.

Vegetable Faculty WEB Pages.

Dr Matt Kleinhenz has recently posted his faculty webpage. At the site you can find his research projects, results and review his presentations made this past winter. A link from VegNet will be provided soon. To visit Matt's homepage, go to:

<http://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/kleinhenz/>

From Dr. Brent Rowell, Univ of KY,  
email: [browell@ca.uky.edu](mailto:browell@ca.uky.edu)

Our new KY Vegetable Recommendations book is on the web now. A print version is also available. The introductory section on marketing might be of interest to southern OH tobacco growers.

<http://www.ca.uky.edu/agc/pubs/id/id36/id36.htm>

The marketing section is also available as a separate publication.

<http://www.ca.uky.edu/agc/pubs/id/id134/id134.htm>

Visit: "The Library, Online Edition of the 2000 OH Vegetable Production Guide, NOW AVAILABLE.

The OH Vegetables Production Guide ranks #22 in top downloads from OSU Extension Ohioline with over 1,000 downloads. Most of the new features are available in the online edition including the New Insecticide Efficacy tables. The new Pumpkin Production Chart is not there but I hope to have it posted soon in "The Pumpkin Patch" section of the VegNet website.

NEW! VegWeb Fact Sheets.

This new feature offers some valuable information on certain aspects of vegetable production that you can print out directly in your home or office. The first two are by Dr. Mac Riedel, OSU Plant Pathology, and are available from the VegNet homepage.

Fungicides Labeled for Pumpkins

Confused by the many new fungicides now available for pumpkins. Check out this fact sheet to see how to use these fungicides.

Fungicide Activity For Control of Tomato Diseases Which fungicide is best for a particular tomato disease.

Available from the Vegetable Crops Homepage, [Click Here!](#)

The 1999 Pumpkin Review and Slide Show.

Yield Data plus pictures of pumpkin cultivars from this year's trials. Also, see pumpkin varieties rated for powdery mildew resistance. There are many new and interesting pumpkin varieties in all size categories.

Visit: 'The Pumpkin Patch' for pictures and yield data.

The 1999 Green Pepper Evaluation and Slide Show.

Yield Data Slide Show From The Muck Crops Branch at Celeryville,

From The Enterprise Center

Comparison of Disease Control on Fresh Tomatoes using TOMCAST and SKYBIT to Time Fungicide Applications.

Evaluation of WaterMelon Cultivars for Southern Ohio, 1999

1999 Ornamental Corn Evaluation

Evaluation of Eastern Style Muskmelons for Southern Ohio, 1999

[Link To Research Summaries From The Enterprise Center at Piketon.](#)

[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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