VegNet

The Vegetable and Fruit Crops Teams Newsletter

http://vegnet.osu.edu

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Vol. 23 Number 1, April 19, 2016

OSU South Centers Field Update

From Thom Harker, Research Assistant OSU South Centers

Spring has sprung at the OSU South Centers. Hops started emerging mid-March in the newly planted trial. In the four-year-old hop yard, the weed fabric has been removed and the rows have been hilled. The hop bines in the older yard have been starting to emerge in the last few weeks after being hilled and root thinned. Row covers came off the plasticulture strawberries with the warm temperatures in early March. Row covers went back on April 1 and were removed April 14. We have not assessed the damage to the crop at this time. We are in the process of laying new irrigation lines for the hop yards and other perineal crops at the Centers. Greenhouse tomato harvest is coming to an end in the Centers greenhouse.
New Herbicide Registered for Caneberry and Bushberry Growers

*From Trevor Kraus, Technical Service Representative*

Prowl H20 is now registered for caneberries (blackberry, red raspberry, black raspberry, and wild raspberry) and bushberries (highbush blueberry and Aronia berry). Prowl H20 controls over 50 important grass and broadleaf weeds and provides residual control of both glyphosate and ALS-resistant Palmer amaranth.

Prowl H20 is a water-based encapsulation that easily washes off residue to control germinating weeds and has improved soil surface stability for confidence in dry conditions, and effective weed control in wet conditions.

Prowl H20 at 2-4 qts/acre can be applied to bearing and non-bearing caneberry and bushberry. In both crop groups, Prowl H20 should be applied as a broadcast or banded application using ground equipment prior to weed germination. Apply the spray solution directly to the ground beneath the bushes or canes and/or in the area between rows. Prowl H20 should not be applied over the top of the bushes or canes. Please consult the supplemental labels on CDMS.com for more information.

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Corn Flea Beetle & Stewart's Wilt in 2016

From Celeste Welty, Extension Entomologist

Anyone who spent the past winter in Ohio knows that we had a mild winter. As usual after a mild winter, we can expect to have problems in sweet corn with Stewart's bacterial wilt, which is vectored by the corn flea beetle. Every year we make a prediction about how bad Stewart's wilt will be by calculating flea beetle index values for several Ohio locations. The index values for ten Ohio sites in 2016 range from a low of 98 at Celeryville to a high of 111 at Jackson and Piketon. Temperature data from nine of ten sites in Ohio shows that in 2016 Stewart's wilt should be severe (index value above 100). One of the ten sites in Ohio is predicted to have moderate to severe disease (index 95 to 100). There were no Ohio sites for which the disease should be light to moderate (index 90 to 94) or negligible (index <90) in 2016. The 2016 values, along with the previous 18 years, are posted at this web site: (http://u.osu.edu/pestmanagement/info/sweet-corn-management/). At most sites, the index value for 2016 is similar to the value in 2012. In contrast, the extremely cold winters of 2015 and 2014 resulted in corn flea beetle index values that were the lowest in the 29 years that I have been tracking them in Ohio.

Cultural control – The best management tactic for Stewart’s wilt is to plant resistant varieties; ratings for over 600 hybrids by J. Pataky are shown on this website: (sweetcorn.illinois.edu/summary/summary.html). A few examples of hybrids that are most resistant to Stewart’s wilt are Eliminator (yellow su), Sweet Sue (bicolor su), Miracle (yellow se); the se bicolors Ambrosia, Buckeye, Encore, Lancelot, Seneca Nation, and Table Treat; Argent (white se); and Trigger and Zenith (yellow sh2).

If resistant varieties are not planted, it is important to protect seedlings of susceptible varieties from beetle feeding through the 7-leaf stage, especially on farms with a history of problems with this disease. Systemic insecticide protection can be obtained by buying seed that has been commercially treated by Cruiser, Poncho, or Gaucho. It is increasingly difficult to find seed that is not treated with one of these products. Cruiser contains the active ingredient thiamethoxam (the same active ingredient (AI) as in Platinum and Actara) and is made by Syngenta. Poncho contains the active ingredient clothianidin (the same AI as in Belay) and is made by Bayer. Gaucho contains the active ingredient imidacloprid (the same AI as in Admire) and is made by Bayer. Another option is Latitude (imidacloprid plus fungicides), used as a hopper box seed treatment. Tests done at the University of Illinois when seed treatments were under development showed that incidence of Stewart’s wilt in susceptible varieties was reduced by about 70% by commercial seed treatment, and the severity of symptoms was also reduced. Seed treatments are thus not products that alone will control corn flea beetle and Stewarts wilt. As an alternative to seed treatment, systemic soil insecticide options are Counter or Thimet applied to the soil at planting. The final option is to wait until seedlings emerge when they can be sprayed with Sevin, permethrin, or other non-systemic insecticide, but the foliar sprays are not usually as effective as the systemic seed or soil treatments.
A Northeast Ohio Fruit Report from April 5, 2016

From Bob Sage, Sage’s Apples

Our peaches are in a tight pink/pink tip stage and apples are GT to 1/4” Green tip. We had 18-20°F in the orchard this morning, and a neighbor down the hill said he saw 15°F. So far no damage to the peaches or apples, I cut 30 or so peach blossoms mid-afternoon and all were alive. I have some Klondike white peaches that are ahead of the others, a fluffy pink but not open (though they were close to being open Saturday March 26 when Erik was here for our annual pruning day), they also were all still alive.

I have an early plum, vigorous tree with white blossoms (maybe Methley?) that was in that fluffy white stage. I could find some darker ovaries in them, probably less than half, but I expect some damage there. We normally have peach bloom early May with apples May 10-15 so we are especially early this year.

Ohio State University Direct Agricultural Marketing Team

The Ohio Direct Agricultural Marketing Team is a group of OSU Extension Educators and specialists along with personnel from partnering organizations that provided education and assistance to Ohio’s agricultural producers. The team provides this assistance in a variety of ways.

- We offer a no-cost monthly webinar series on a variety of topics relating to direct marketing of agricultural products. Interested participants are welcome to join the live webinars and can also view recorded and archived webinars on the team website at: http://southcenters.osu.edu/marketing/direct-marketing-webinars. The schedule for the remaining 2016 webinars can be found online.

- The team provides a variety of direct marketing presentations throughout Ohio at many workshops, conferences, and farm tours such as the Ohio Produce Growers and Marketers Association (OPGMA) Annual Congress and Summer Tour, the Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association Annual Conference, Small Farm College, and at many additional events.

- We provide technical assistance to groups and individual agricultural producers to assist them in evaluating their marketing strategies and learn where they might improve those strategies to increase their profitability.

- The team has a variety of programs that can be offered to assist Ohio’s direct agricultural producers. These programs include; Map & Apps, Market Ready, Ohio Market Maker, and Meet the Buyers.

You can learn more about the Direct Agricultural Marketing Team at: go.osu.edu/directmarketing
It Takes a Village…

From Sally Miller, Ohio State University, Department of Plant Pathology

Vegetable planting season outdoors has begun in the southern parts of Ohio and is about to start in the northern tier counties, so it is time to think about disease management programs. Last year was a pretty severe one for downy mildew in cucumbers, melons, squash and pumpkins, and for Phytophthora blight in peppers and cucurbits. Late blight of tomatoes and potatoes occurred sporadically, but can be a serious threat. These diseases are all promoted by rainy weather – downy mildew and late blight thrive under cool, overcast and rainy conditions, while Phytophthora blight needs warm temperatures and rain to develop and spread. None of these diseases are isolated to individual fields, and all can spread widely if not managed properly. An area-wide or community management approach is really important to protect crops from severe damage.

All of these diseases are spread beyond the plant that they are immediately infecting by produced thousands of sporangia, which in turn contain motile zoospores that, when released, can swim in anything from a thin film of water to a pond, river, or lake. Both sporangia and zoospores can infect plants. In the case of downy mildew of cucumbers, for example, sporangia are produced in abundance on the lower surface of leaves overnight, then released into the air by midmorning under cool, humid conditions. The sporangia float in the air – if it is sunny and dry they are killed, if it is cool, overcast and humid they can move considerable distances. Rainfall brings them back down to land on some poor unsuspecting cucumber plant to start the cycle again. So this is why it is really important to keep production of sporangia to a minimum – not only to limit spread within a field, but to prevent spread to other fields near and far. Late blight behaves in a similar way, but the victims are tomatoes and potatoes. The pathogen that causes Phytophthora blight of cucurbits and peppers is soilborne; special structures called oospores allow it to survive the winter in our climate. The pathogen causes both root rot and foliar and fruit blight, and long distance movement of sporangia occurs very easily in surface waters like irrigation ponds and rivers. Once this pathogen is established in a field, it can remain there for many years.

So reducing the overall inoculum load – the number of zoospore-containing sporangia – is very important in reducing disease spread. Several fungicides have good activity against these diseases. Phytophthora blight-resistant pepper varieties and late blight-resistant tomatoes are available and they can slow down the progression of disease and reduce the production of inoculum. Cultural practices, including sanitation, are very important to reduce inoculum. Several tips for preventing widespread movement of these pathogens are as follows:

* Plant disease-resistant varieties whenever possible
* For downy mildew and late blight, follow @OhioVeggie Doc, u.osu.edu/miller.769 and VegNet for news of outbreaks of these diseases in your county and begin fungicide programs preventatively when disease occurrence is likely
* Maintain fungicide applications throughout the life of the crop. If a field is being abandoned, be sure to destroy the plants immediately to prevent continued inoculum production
* Do not keep cull piles of fruits and other plant materials affected by these diseases – inoculum will continue to be produced as long as the plants are alive. Sporangia of the Phytophthora blight pathogen can easily move from infected plants in cull piles to waterways during rainstorms.

The economic viability of a community demands cooperation by all of its members. Plant diseases do not occur in isolation and it is up to the community to police itself in matters of crop health, for everyone’s benefit. For more information, see: Ohio Veggie Disease News (u.osu.edu/miller.769)

**Figure A:** Dark, oval-shaped sporangia of the cucurbit downy mildew pathogen produced on the underside of a cucumber leaf.
Southern Ohio Vegetable and Fruit Update

Brad Bergefurd, OSU Extension Educator and Horticulture Specialist, OSU Extension Scioto County and OSU South Centers

Field work was in full swing from early to the end of March with much plowing being done, fertilizer and compost being applied, pre-emergent herbicides being applied to brambles and grapes, asparagus ferns being mowed and pre-emerge herbicides being applied to sweet corn fields. Apples and peaches have been and continue to be pruned. Hop plantings were hilled-up and rhizomes were divided on mature plantings in March. For ten of the first fourteen days of April, low temperatures were below freezng with farms having to frost protect with freeze blankets and overhead irrigation on peach and strawberry crops. Some freeze damage has been reported on asparagus, strawberry, apple and peach crops with many farms reporting low 20’s throughout southern Ohio from April 1 through April 10. Pruning of blueberries, black raspberries, grapes and blackberry was completed by April 1. Lime sulfur applications were completed by April 1. Deer fence is being repaired and erected on several fruit and vegetable farms throughout southern Ohio. Field work continued until rains the first week of April halted field operations.

Sweet corn planted
Sweet corn was planted under plastic March 18 in the Rainsboro area and has great germination and one of the best stands in many years. Sweet corn was also planted under plastic in the Lowell area on March 30. Second plantings of plastic sweet corn were planted in the Rainsboro and Bainbridge areas the week of March 28. With the sunshine and warmer temperatures we are experiencing this week (4/11), temperatures under the plastic are exceeding 70 degrees F.

Tomato harvest has begun and fruit sizing up nicely
High tunnel/greenhouse tomatoes were planted to the ground and in grow bags beginning the last week of January and weekly plantings continue. Tomato fruit is pollinating and sizing up nicely. Hand pruning, training, fertigating and tying continue weekly. Bumblebees were installed 5 weeks ago to increase pollination and tomato fruit set in the tunnels. In addition to bumblebees, pollination is performed by hand daily using electric bees and/or leaf blowers. Fruit was greater than 1 inch diameter on March 16 and has been increasing about ¼ inch every 2 days. Second plantings of tunnel tomatoes began to go in 4.8 to 4.14.

A. Sweet corn was planted in Lowell Ohio on March 30.(Photos by Witten Farm)
B. Sweet corn planted under plastic in Rainsboro on March 18 has a good germination percentage and stand (photos by Brad Bergefurd)
C. Tomatoes are being HARVESTED from an on farm research trial where tunnel tomatoes were planted the end of November. (photo by Brad Bergefurd)
D. Tomato planted the last week of February are pollinating and sizing up nicely in high tunnels in Rainsboro (photos by Brad Bergefurd)
Southern Ohio Vegetable and Fruit Update
Continued...

A. Second planting of high tunnel tomatoes and pepper are going in this week (photos by Brad Bergefurd)
B. Plowing and fieldwork was non-stop through March but came to a halt in April (photos by Brad Bergefurd)
C. Row covers were removed from plasticulture strawberries the week of March 9 and straw was removed from matted row strawberries the week of March 22. (photos by Brad Bergefurd)
D. Plasticulture Strawberries seem to have come through the freeze events with minimal damage (photo by Jones Produce Farm)
E. Sprinkler irrigation was applied for freeze protection on strawberries and peaches several nights in a row 4/1 through 4/13. (photos by Paiges Produce)
F. Cabbage was being transplanted in Lowell area on April 8 (photo by Witten Farms)
G. Malting Barley is looking good after the freeze events of this winter and spring (photo by Rustic Brew Farm)
“Fresh-Market Tomato Fertility – The Never-Ending Battle Against Fruit Physiological Disorders”

From Brad Bergefurd, Extension Educator, Agriculture and Natural Resources, The Ohio State University, Scioto County & South Centers

Not only was the 2015 growing season one of the wettest on record, but the season had some of the lowest average temperatures for an extended period of time in recent years. The season-long extreme environmental conditions caused many problems for all vegetable growers, but fresh-market tomato growers were particularly affected due to high percentages of fruit physiological disorders with some farms experiencing up to 50 percent of fruit affected. Thanks to greatly appreciated grant funding from the Ohio Vegetable and Small Fruit Research and Development Program (OVSFRDP), researchers have shed some light on reducing the economic impact of these tomato fruit disorders through cultural management and fertility research.

Yellow shoulder disorder and other tomato fruit disorders are a wide-spread problem annually, especially with extended hot and dry growing conditions at blossoming and fruit development. Yellow shoulder disorder seems to impact all-sized fruit and is characterized by areas at the top of the fruit and shoulders of fruit that stay green or yellow and as the fruit ripens, and tends to turn a more intense yellow color. These areas never will ripen properly, even if left to hang on the plant for an extended time. The area beneath the yellow shoulder is firm and poor tasting which makes the fruit unmarketable and not desired by consumers. Unfortunately, the cause of this problem is complex and researchers have been investigating cures for almost thirty years with limited success. The complexity of the disorder is increased since environmental conditions as well as tomato plant physiology lead to the disorder and there is no real solution. Factors that can increase the severity of these disorders include cloudy weather, wet and cool conditions, high nitrogen, low potassium, and compacted soils. Some of the cultural and crop management practices that fresh-market tomato growers can do to ease the symptoms and possibly reduce crop losses will be covered here.

One of the main causes of this disorder, that we have limited control over, is intense heat. High temperatures prevent lycopene production, the red pigment in the tomato fruit. Lycopene is most often in the shoulders of tomato, as this part is more commonly exposed to the direct rays of the sun. Researchers measured fruit temperatures of between 86 degrees and 105 degrees Fahrenheit morning through evening hours in July 2012, one of the hottest months on record for southern Ohio. When temperatures are greater than 85 degrees, lycopene production begins to cease, whereas at temperatures below 85 degrees, lycopene consistently produces.

Inside the plant we see a reduction in potassium (K) just before yellow shoulders are seen. This year in our tissue testing we saw drops in K of 3-4 percent in a matter of weeks, going from 4-6 percent - which is in the good range, to 2-3 percent - which is in the poor range. Usually within a week or two of this drop, yellow shoulder will be expressed. Therefore, early detection and management are critical for control. Drops in calcium (Ca), nitrogen (N), and at times magnesium (Mg) have also been observed as we move into mid-July and early August, the hottest months of the year. We also have observed this disorder in high-tunnel tomatoes; however, it is usually a month or so earlier, when temperatures in the tunnels begin to climb around Memorial Day. High-tunnel tomato growers will apply a 10 to 15 percent shade cloth to tunnels around this time in an attempt to reduce the heat stress in the tunnels. This disorder is expressed in plants that are under some stressful growing conditions when the plant is under a heavy fruit load. These stresses can be too little water, too much heat, high amounts of plant disease, or insect infections.
“Fresh-Market Tomato Fertility – The Never-Ending Battle Against Fruit Physiological Disorders” Continued...

Grafted rootstock of a tomato plant

Pictures taken by Brad Bergefurd
Vegetable Workshop Series Offered for Growers

From Allen Gahler, Allen Gahler, Extension Educator, Sandusky County

The Ohio State University Extension office in Sandusky County, along with the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center’s North Central Ag Research Station near Fremont will be hosting a vegetable production workshop series throughout the 2016 growing season. The meeting series, which will be free and open to the public, will be targeted toward an audience of vegetable producers in the county and surrounding northern Ohio area, as well as anyone interested in learning more about the research conducted at the station, and its impact on the community and the food industry.

The goal of the workshop series is to provide hands-on training and pertinent growing season information to producers in a more relaxed, informal learning environment than provided by traditional afternoon or evening field days held at the research station in the past. “By moving to a monthly meeting, we can offer several topics throughout the year, as well as add in timely information as specific challenges occur during the season,” reported Allen Gahler, Extension Educator for Sandusky County, and organizer of the series.

Matt Hofelich, manager at the research station, added, “By making it a regularly occurring event, we can include many different faculty, staff, industry reps, and growers that may not be able to attend one specific date, allowing greater outreach from the station and Extension. This should also benefit growers by providing regular fellowship and opportunity to network and swap growing notes.”

The meetings will be offered on the second Thursday of each month, April through October, and will begin at 7:00 a.m. with breakfast provided by OSU Extension and sponsors. Industry representatives and researchers will be introduced during breakfast, and at 7:30 a.m., a featured speaker will present a specific topic relating to vegetable production. At the conclusion of the talk, participants are invited to walk the fields, visit with OSU researchers and industry representatives, and network with other producers.

According to Gahler, participants are also encouraged to bring plant disease samples and insects with them to the meetings for identification by OSU staff, or for same-day transport of the samples to the OARDC lab in Wooster, where full diagnostics can be run and reported back to the grower electronically. “Timely diagnosis in vegetable disease is key to managing the crop, and we want to do all we can to help ensure growers produce a wholesome product at a reasonable cost to them and to consumers,” he stated.

Specific topics and dates for the workshop by month will include the following:

* May 12: Scouting Cucurbits with drones, Jim Jasinski, OSU IPM Coordinator
* June 9: Alternative Crop Enterprises – is Malting Barley an option for you?
  Dr. Eric Stockinger, OSU/OARDC Department of Horticulture & Crop Science
* July 14: The OSU Food Safety Program – what it can do for you
  Dr. Beth Scheckelhoff, Extension Educator – Greenhouse Systems
* Aug. 11: Sweet Corn Evaluation, field walk, and taste it for yourself
  Mike Gastier, Extension Educator – Huron County
* Sept. 8: Pepper Evaluation and field walk – Bells, Bananas, Jalapenos
  Allen Gahler, Extension Educator – Sandusky County
* Oct. 13: Soil Health and Water Quality - How does it affect me? A look at edge of field studies and NCARS water samples, Libby Dayton, OSU Soil Scientist
OSU Vegetable Workshop Series

Join the staff at the North Central Ag Research Station near Fremont and OSU Extension on the 2nd Thursday of each month, April through October for catered breakfast, industry updates, and in-depth tips, tricks, and information from researchers to help make your 2016 growing season a profitable one! Attend when the topic suits you, or come each month and stick around after the speaker to view the OARDC field trials or network with peers and industry reps.

2nd Thursday: April – Oct.

*Bring your plant disease and insect samples for identification and same day delivery to the OARDC lab, free of charge!

7:00 a.m. Breakfast with OSU and industry updates
7:30 a.m. Featured speaker
8:00 a.m. Field walk / networking

Held at NCARS office, No rsvp, No cost!

For more information contact:
Allen Gahler, OSU Extension Sandusky County
419-334-6340
gahler.2@osu.edu

Matt Hofelich, North Central Ag Research Station
419-332-5142
hofelich.4@osu.edu

April 14: New Fungicide Strategies with Orondis
Dr. Sally Miller, OSU/OARDC Plant Pathologist

May 12: Scouting Cucurbits with drones
Jim Jasinski, OSU IPM Coordinator

June 9: Alternative Crop Enterprises – Is Malting Barley an option for you?
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Libby Dayton, OSU Soil Scientist

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Ohio State University
Direct Marketing
Food & Agriculture

2016 Webinar Series
One-hour webinars will be offered to bring exceptional speakers to your home, office or local Extension center. If you’re interested in finding out more about marketing issues, visit the website for details.

2016 Direct Marketing Webinar Series
All webinars begin at 12 noon

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For recordings of all webinars go to go.osu.edu/DirectMarketingWebinars

http://directmarketing.osu.edu

CFAES provides research and related educational programs to clientele on a nondiscriminatory basis. For more information: http://go.osu.edu/cfaesdiversity.
Strawberry Field Night
At OSU South Centers
Hosted by Brad Bergefurth

Wednesday,
May 25, 2015
5:30 — 8:30 P.M.

Location: OSU South Centers
1864 Shyville Rd., Piketon, OH

Cost: $20.00 per person
(Includes handouts and dinner served from 5:30 to 6:00)

To Register:
You must register
Contact Charissa Gardner at
Gardner.1148@osu.edu
740.289.2071 ext. 132

DEADLINE to Register:
May 23, 2016

For more information go to
http://go.osu.edu/strawberryfieldnight2016

Plasticulture and matted row strawberry field research will be showcased

Topics to be covered will include:
- winter protection techniques
- israeli drip irrigation demonstration and management
- fertigation and nitrogen management
- row cover management
- June bearing, day-neutral, ever-bearing cultivar evaluations
- pest and disease control
- integrated Pest Management (IPM) techniques
- petiole sap analysis demonstration

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VegNet Newsletter
COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

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Submit Articles:
To submit an article to the VegNet newsletter please send the article and any photos to Brad Bergefurd at bergefurd.1@osu.edu or for questions regarding the newsletter call 740.289.2071 ext.132.

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Bergefurd is an Extension Educator, Agriculture and Horticulture Specialist with Ohio State University Extension, with statewide responsibilities for outreach and research to the agriculture and commercial fruit and vegetable industries Brad has offices at the OSU Piketon Research & Extension Center in Piketon and at OSU Extension Scioto County in Portsmouth.

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