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### **Insect update** – *Celeste Welty, Dept. of Entomology*

Corn earworm: the trend has continued of much lower activity than usual for this pest at this time of year. The number of corn earworm moths caught in pheromone traps for the past week was: 3 in Clark County, 0 and 0 in Wayne County, 0 in Summit County, 1 in Medina County, 8 and 6 in Sandusky County, 22 in Ottawa County. Trap reports for corn earworm are posted online: <http://mytraps.com/share/?key=6199532529016863756> . Silking sweet corn can be protected from these low density populations of corn earworm by a 5-day spray schedule.

European corn borer: moths of the second generation of this pest are continuing to emerge and lay eggs, and larvae will continue to infest peppers and late sweet corn. Traps are detecting large numbers of the moth at some sites. The number of European corn borer moths caught in pheromone traps for the past week was: 9 in Clark County, 0 and 4 in Wayne County, 2 in Summit County, 5 in Medina County, 45 and 26 in Sandusky County, 86 in Ottawa County. Trap reports for European corn borer are posted online: <http://mytraps.com/share/?key=1701589476818433912> .

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### **The Ohio Soil Fertility Survey – a Step in Updating Recommendations for Commercial Vegetable Growers** – *Matt Kleinhenz, Dept. of Horticulture and Crop Science*

Updating soil fertility management recommendations for Ohio commercial vegetable growers is a large, complex and important job. It requires teamwork and reliable information on the current conditions of Ohio vegetable soils. Collecting and analyzing many individual samples is impossible at this time. Therefore, a more low-cost and

time-saving approach is being used instead. Commercial growers are invited to share copies of current soil test reports, that is, information they already have on hand. Collectively, information in these reports provides a snapshot assessment of the status of Ohio vegetable soils. This assessment is a building block for later work to be done by industry-university teams that will help Ohio commercial vegetable growers maximize returns on their investments in fertilizers.

The OSU team will partner with growers, soil testing services, consultants and others at all stages of the project. At first, the OSU team will organize and analyze soil test data growers provide. Then, the team will work with farmers, consultants and other experts to identify the best next steps for commercial vegetable growers who want to use the most current soil fertility management practices. Also, each cooperating farm will receive a customized master report listing results from the analysis of their soils compared to the remainder of a comparable test group. With that report, participating farmers will be able to compare soil test results from their farm to a much larger group of farms with similar cropping plans. The snapshot assessment will also allow the project team to identify irregularities in reports and troubleshoot privately with farmers, if needed.

To start the process, growers are asked to submit paper or digital copies of soil test reports dated 2011, 2012 or 2013. Go to [http://www.hcs.osu.edu/vpslab/Soil Fertility Survey](http://www.hcs.osu.edu/vpslab/Soil_Fertility_Survey) for full details on the project and submission process or contact Matt Kleinhenz directly at [kleinhenz.1@osu.edu](mailto:kleinhenz.1@osu.edu) or (330) 263-3810. ALL growers who participate in the project and all the soil test information they provide will remain anonymous and confidential.

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### **Rootstock and Scion Selection for Grafted Tomato Production - *Matt Kleinhenz, Dept. of Horticulture and Crop Science***

Commercial tomato growers must normally 'live with' the limitations of the varieties they grow. For example, varieties are often susceptible to certain nematodes, soil-borne diseases, or environmental stresses. Grafting, however, allows growers to minimize these limitations, often with fewer chemicals and without switching varieties. Grafting combines the superior root system of a non-fruiting rootstock variety with the shoot of the grower's favorite fruiting variety, the scion.

These combinations often outperform standard ungrafted plants. However, rootstock and scion varieties must be chosen carefully in order to maximize the return on investment in grafted plants.

A new project led by an OSU team will help with variety selection. New fresh market rootstock and scion varieties are available each year and thousands of rootstock and scion combinations are possible. Which combinations have the greatest grafting success and grafted plant vigor?

The project team will address these questions but not with just any varieties. They prefer to experiment with fresh market varieties nominated by commercial tomato growers. Growers are asked to nominate rootstock and scion varieties by visiting <http://hcs.osu.edu/vpslab/organic-grafted-tomato-variety-nominations> or by contacting Matt Kleinhenz directly at [kleinhenz.1@osu.edu](mailto:kleinhenz.1@osu.edu) or (330) 263-3810. No experience with grafting or the use of grafted plants is necessary to nominate varieties. Also, ALL growers who nominate varieties and the information they provide will remain anonymous and confidential. Growers can also indicate if they wish to receive grafted plants in planned follow-up studies.

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### Ask Us ??

Do you have a pest management or production issue that you would like addressed in future VegNet issues? If so let us know. Email your suggestion to Jim Jasinski, [jasinski.4@osu.edu](mailto:jasinski.4@osu.edu).

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