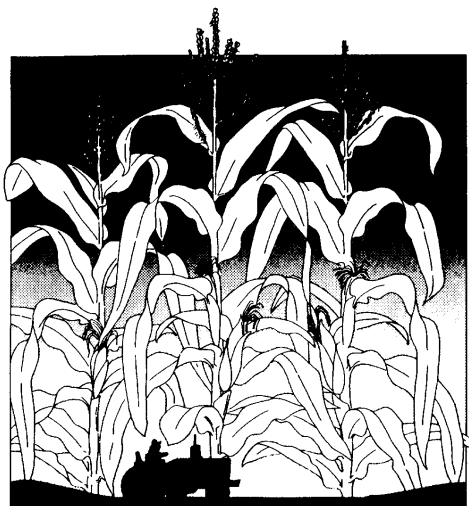


PLANT & PEST ADVISORY

VEGETABLE CROPS EDITION \$1.50

SEPTEMBER 19, 2007



IPM Update

Kristian Holmstrom, Research Project Coordinator II, Vegetable IPM Program

Sweet Corn

European corn borer (ECB) adult numbers have dropped over the past week. This is likely due to cooler evening temperatures. If the trend continues, it may be an indication that this flight is nearing its end. Overall, numbers are low, especially in the northern counties (see ECB map). Larval feeding is still present in late sweet corn plantings in many areas. Most late plantings are in silk, but for those not yet silking, check 5 consecutive plants each in 10 random locations throughout the planting. Look for the presence of "shot-hole" type feeding that is characteristic of ECB larvae. On pre-tassel stage plants, look for discoloration or actual caterpillars in the emerging tassels. Consider treating if fresh damage is found on 12% or more plants. Be sure to treat again at the full tassel to first silk stage to protect the forming ears from ECB larvae that are leaving the tassel and traveling down the stalk.

The highest nightly ECB catches for the previous week are as follows:

Shirley	6	Clinton	1	Pedricktown	1
East Vineland	2	Downer	1	Sergeantsville	1
Phillipsburg	2	Milltown	1	Shiloh	1
Allentown	1	New Egypt	1	Tabernacle	1

Fall armyworm (FAW) feeding in all stages of growth is heavy at this time. FAW is capable of causing significant injury to sweet corn plants and will feed on all stages, including seedlings. For this reason it is necessary to check all pre-silking fields for signs of FAW feeding. Look for large, ragged holes and lots of caterpillar droppings in the whorl. Consider treating if 12% or more FAW injury is found alone, or in combination with ECB injury in a planting. For B.t. corn, silk sprays are still necessary to prevent ear damage by FAW. This pest is not as susceptible to the toxin as are ECB and CEW, and some level of infestation can occur. In general, a 3-day silk spray schedule as required for CEW control on non-B.t. corn should be lengthened to 7-days for FAW control in B.t. corn.

Corn earworm (CEW) catches have declined throughout the state with cooler weather over the past week (see CEW population map). This trend will likely reverse if warmer evenings return. CEW adults pose a significant threat to silking sweet corn. The cross-hatched area

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(green on the web, found at: www.pestmanagement.rutgers.edu/IPM/Vegetable/Pest%20Maps/maparchive.htm) corresponds to a 3-day silk spray schedule.

Silking Spray Schedules*:

North – 3 days

Central – 3 days

South – 3 days

* Note: These are general recommendations. Local trap catches may indicate some variation in the frequency of insecticide applications to silking corn.

The highest nightly CEW catches for the previous week are as follows:

Clinton	12	Jones Island	6	Downer	4
Denville	8	New Egypt	6	Milltown	4
Morristown	7	Shirley	6	Princeton	4
Georgetown	6	Seeley Lake	5	Sergeantsville	4

Cole Crops

Cabbage looper (CL), **imported cabbage worm (ICW)**, **diamondback moth larvae (DBM)**, and in some areas, **yellow-striped armyworm (YSAW)** are all being found on the cole crops at this time. In heading type cole crops like cabbage and broccoli, check 5 consecutive plants each in 10 random locations. Look on the undersides of leaves and on the youngest leaves at the center of the plant. Consider treating if 10% or more plants are infested while in the 0-9 true leaf stage. The threshold may increase to 20% from 9 true leaves to the early head stage. Once heads form, the threshold becomes a more conservative 5%, in order to protect the marketable portion of the plant. For leafy greens like collards, use a 10% threshold throughout the life of the crop to minimize injury to the leaves.

Alternaria and **downy mildew (DM)** are present on some plantings. *Alternaria* causes a target-shaped lesion on older foliage, while downy mildew results in a yellow spot on the leaf (typically on collards, kale and broccoli) with white-to-purplish fluffy growth on the lower surface. DM is favored by cooler temperatures and may become more common as the season progresses. See the *2007 Commercial Vegetable Production Recommendations* for useful control materials.

Tomatoes

Higher **CEW** catches indicate the potential for injury in late season tomatoes. In areas where CEW are averaging 10 or more per night (black areas on the CEW map and red on the web version), fields should be scouted for signs of infestation. Generally, fruit on the outer part of the plant are targets for damage. Look for holes on the shoulders of fruit. In some cases, the caterpillar may still be inside, although they tend to feed on several fruit in the cluster and move around. If feeding is found in multiple sites, consider an insecticide application to limit damage. **Stinkbug** injury is still occurring on some tomato plantings. Look for a

diffuse, yellow blotch on red fruit or a white blotch on green fruit. The actual damage is beneath the skin. If this injury is detected during harvest or scouting and is increasing, consider an insecticide application to limit further damage.

Peppers

With a late **ECB** flight ongoing in the southern counties, it is important to check peppers weekly for the presence of ECB eggmasses, as well as **aphids** and **two-spotted spider mite (TSSM)**. ECB eggmasses are flat and waxy looking, having the appearance of fish scales on the underside of the pepper leaf. As the larvae emerge, they will bore into the fruit where the cap meets the shoulder of the pepper. Uncontrolled infestations will result in many fruit developing soft rot. Check 5 consecutive plants each in 10 random field locations. Look at the underside of 2 leaves per plant. If 2 or more ECB eggmasses are found in the total sample, consider an insecticide application to minimize plant injury. Additionally, a weekly spray schedule is warranted on fruiting plants when ECB adult numbers reach 1 or more per night in local blacklight traps. At present, adult ECB activity at this level exists in all southern and central counties. All shaded and cross-hatched areas on the ECB map (blue and green on the web version) correspond to a weekly spray schedule on fruiting peppers.

When scouting peppers, be sure to note the presence of **aphids** on the underside of leaves. These pests can build to high numbers on plants, especially with repeated use of synthetic pyrethroid insecticides for ECB management. As colonies increase in size, their droppings result in a sticky coating on the fruit below. Consider treating if aphids average 100 or more per 100 leaves sampled. This situation has occurred in several IPM scouted fields and both northern and southern NJ recently.

Severe foliar distortion and russetting of developing fruit may indicate the presence of a **cyclamen mite** infestation. This has occurred recently on one Hunterdon County pepper field. The mites are not visible without a microscope. Initial diagnosis is usually based on plant symptoms and confirmed later in the lab. Miticides labeled for TSSM are effective on cyclamen mite.

Beet armyworm (BAW) adult catches have increased in the pheromone network in the southern counties, although most of the increase remains in the Elm-Folsom-Hammonton area (see BAW map). Here, catches average over 20/night. Low level signs of feeding have been detected in peppers in the aforementioned area. In most other areas, adult numbers are below those considered potentially damaging at this time. While checking for other insect pests, look for leaves exhibiting heavy feeding near the upper portion of the plant. Often, small BAW larvae will be found near the buds where this feeding occurs. Later, as they enlarge, BAW will begin feeding on fruit.

SEE PEPPERS ON PAGE 3

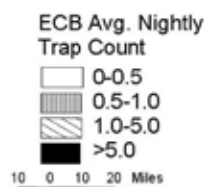
With CEW numbers high, this pest may begin to infest peppers. Areas on the map that are black (red on the web version) may require weekly insecticide applications to limit injury. Treatments used for ECB control should also control CEW. For recommended insecticides, consult the *2007 Commercial Vegetable Production Recommendations*.

Pumpkins and Winter Squash

Melon aphids are still increasing in a number of northern NJ pumpkin fields, with new infestations occurring weekly. Melon aphids, like other types, deposit sticky droppings. Large populations result in a sticky coating on pumpkins beneath the foliage. If this occurs too close to harvest, the fruit may need to be washed prior to sale. It is very important to scout fields weekly, for the presence of pests including **aphids**. Check 10 mature leaves per site in 10 random sites throughout the field. Consider treating if leaves with an average of approximately 25 aphids are found in each of 10 sample sites. **Cucumber beetles** can increase in fields at this time, causing injury to the rinds of maturing fruit. While scouting, note the presence of striped or spotted cucumber beetles in samples. Consider treating if beetles are found in 2 or more sites, particularly if any feeding (scarring on the rind) is discovered.

Powdery mildew (PM) infections are widespread as we enter the time of harvest. The need for further control is dictated by fruit maturity and time of harvest. If vines are still reasonably healthy with green fruit still present or the field will not be harvested quickly and foliar cover is needed, continue using a protectant fungicide. Be alert for the possibility of **downy mildew (DM) infections**. DM is active in New Jersey, particularly on cucumbers. Extension pathologist Dr. Andy Wyenandt has said that DM has begun to affect pumpkins and melons in some southern areas as well. As yet, infections have not been detected in any IPM scouted fields in the central or northern counties, although cucumbers in some of those areas are heavily infected. Pumpkin growers with fields that are not yet fully mature should be including fungicides specific to DM for good management of this pathogen. DM first appears as sharp yellow lesions on the upper surface of leaves. Veins are yellow and constricted on the lower leaf surface. Shortly after this, dark sporulation occurs along veins on the lower surface beneath the lesion. This sporulation will be present when conditions are wet or very humid. In a matter of several days, significant defoliation can occur. For recommended fungicide rotations for DM and PM, consult the *2007 Commercial Vegetable Production Recommendations*.

Distribution of Adult European Corn Borer for the Week Ending September 19, 2007



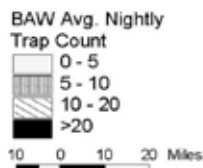
Data collected and processed by: Kris Holmstrom, Marilyn Hughes
Rutgers Cooperative Extension & Center for Remote Sensing

Distribution of Adult Corn Earworm for the Week Ending September 19, 2007



Data collected and processed by: Kris Holmstrom,
Rutgers Cooperative Extension Pest Management Office

Distribution of Adult Beet Armyworm for the Week Ending September 19, 2007



Data collected by Joe Mahar and processed by Kris Holmstrom
Rutgers Cooperative Research and Extension

Vegetable Disease Update

Andy Wyenandt, Ph.D., Specialist in Vegetable Pathology and Wesley Kline, Ph.D., Cumberland County Agricultural Agent

✓ **Carrots – Leaf blights** - *Alternaria* and *Cercospora* are two soil-borne fungal pathogens that may cause early defoliation in carrots reducing yields and making harvest difficult. Both pathogens produce distinct symptoms on carrots. **Powdery mildew causes characteristic white, powdery lesions on foliage. Symptoms of *Alternaria* include irregular, dark brown to black spots which typically show up on older leaves first. *Cercospora* leaf spots are round, grayish-brown and are more prevalent on younger foliage.** Both leaf blights typically start at the margins of leaflets and as more spots develop leaflets begin to wither and die. Symptoms similar to leaf infections can develop on stems and petioles. Control of both diseases begins with regular scouting and preventative fungicide applications on susceptible varieties. Apply Amistar 80WDG (azoxystrobin, FRAC code 11) at 3 to 5 oz/A or Quadris (azoxystrobin, 11) at 9.2 to 15.4 fl. oz 2.08F/A, or Cabrio 20EG (pyraclostrobin, 11) at 8 to 12 oz/A, or Pristine (pyraclostrobin + boscalid, 11 +7) tank-mixed or alternated with Bravo, Echo, Equus (chlorothalonil, M5) at 1.5 to 2 pt/A or OLF, or Endura 70W at 4.5 oz/A. Apply Rovral 4F (iprodione, 2) at 1 to 2 pt/A or Switch (cypridonil, 9) at 11 to 14 oz/A for *Alternaria* only. Do not make more than one sequential application of Amistar, Pristine or Cabrio (FRAC code 11). For more information on tolerant varieties and control please see the *2007 New Jersey Commercial Vegetable Production Recommendations*.

✓ **Cole Crops – Downy mildew** can be a problem in fall cole crops (cabbage, collards, broccoli, cauliflower and kale). Infection begins as irregular yellow spots on leaves which later turn brown. A white fluffy growth develops on the underside of leaves during cool moist weather. When the disease first appears apply a fungicide every 7 to 10 days. Azoxystrobin (Amistar, Quadris), Bravo, Cabrio, Maneb, Ridomil Gold Bravo, Actigard and Aliette are labeled. For more information on control please see the *2007 New Jersey Commercial Vegetable Production Recommendations*.

✓ **Cucurbits – Powdery mildew** - Powdery mildew typically occurs from mid-July until the end of the season. Symptoms typically begin on older, lower leaves and can develop and spread rapidly under dry, humid conditions. **Control of Powdery mildew begins with regular scouting for symptoms and weekly fungicide applications.** Fungicide resistance management of the fungus which causes Powdery mildew is critical. Fungicides with a high risk for resistance development such as the strobilurin (Pristine, FRAC code 11) should be tank mixed with a protectant fungicide such as chlorotha-

lonil (M5) or sulfur (M2) and rotated with fungicides of a different chemistry such as chlorothalonil + Nova or Procure (FRAC code 3). FRAC code 3 fungicides are also high-risk and should never be applied alone. Growers need to read and follow restrictions on labels carefully. For more information on control of Powdery mildew and other important diseases of cucurbits please see the *2007 New Jersey Commercial Vegetable Production Recommendations Guide*.

✓ **Cucurbits – Downy mildew** - Tank mix one of the products listed below with a protectant fungicide such as chlorothalonil (M5), or maneb (M3), or mancozeb (M3) (see label for rates and specific crop uses): Ranman (cyazofamid, 21) at 2.1 to 2.75 fl. oz. 400SC/A, or Previcur Flex (propamocarb HCL, 28) at 1.2 pt 6F/A, or Gavel (zoxamide + mancozeb, 22 + M3) at 1.5 to 2.0 lb 75DF/A (some muskmelon may be sensitive) Curzate (cymoxanil, 27) at 3.2 oz 60DF/A, or Tanos (famoxodone + cymoxanil, 11 + 27) at 8 oz 50WDG/A

Downy mildew materials should always be tank mixed with a protectant fungicide and rotated weekly with fungicides from a different FRAC code to reduce the chances for fungicide resistance development.

Cucurbit growers who suspect downy mildew should contact their county agricultural agent. To track the progress of Downy mildew in the eastern US and to keep up with reports of Downy mildew from other states please visit North Carolina State University's Cucurbit Downy Mildew Forecasting Center at <http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/pp/cucurbit/>. For more information on Downy mildew control for specific cucurbit crops please see the *2007 New Jersey Commercial Vegetable Production Recommendations Guide*.

✓ **Cucurbits – 'White speck' of Pumpkin** – also known as *Microdochium* or *Plectosporium* blight causes small, distinct lesions on infected vines, petioles, leaves, handles and fruit. Symptoms include light tan to pure white 'spindle-shaped' lesions that have a dry, scabby appearance. These small 'white specks' often coalesce to form large, dry scabby whitish-tan areas on infected plant parts. Heavy vine infection can lead to complete defoliation and handle and fruit infection can ruin aesthetic fruit quality. Control of White speck begins with proper rotations with crops other than cucurbits. Maximum coverage with fungicide applications are necessary for control of White speck. For more information on control please see the *2007 New Jersey Commercial Vegetable Production Recommendations*.

✓ **Cucurbits – Phytophthora blight** – For protection against the fruit rot phase of the disease apply one of the following:

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Forum (dimethomorph, 40) at 6.0 fl. oz 4.18SC/A (must be tank mixed with another fungicide active against *Phytophthora* blight), or

Ranman (cyazofamid, 21) at 2.75 fl oz 400SC/A plus as organosilicone surfactant (do not tank mix with copper)

Tanos (famoxodone + cymoxanil, 11 + 27) at 8.0 to 10.0 oz 50WDG/A (for suppression only), or

Gavel (zoxamide + mancozeb, 22 + M2) at 1.5 to 2.0 lb 75DF/A (not for use on pumpkin, some muskmelon varieties are sensitive to Gavel, see label)

✓ **Leeks – Purple Blotch** – Symptoms of Purple blotch include tannish-brown, elongated, concentric, circular lesions with chlorotic margins. Lesions run parallel with the leaf veins. Development of Purple blotch is favored by warm night temperatures. Fungicide applications should begin in the fall as soon as transplants are set out on 10-day intervals as long as night temperatures remain warm. There are a number of fungicides labeled for the control on Purple blotch. For more information on control please see the *2007 New Jersey Commercial Vegetable Production Recommendations*.

✓ **Lettuce – Bottom Rot/Drop** – For Bottom Rot, Endura 70W (boscalid, 7) at 8 to 11 oz/A, or Rovral 50WP (iprodione, 2) at 1.5 to 2 lb/A or OLF should be applied one week after transplanting or thinning and 10 and 20 days later. For Drop, the biological Contans 5.3WG at 2 to 4 lbs/A pre-plant can be incorporated at a depth of 1 to 2 inches, or Rovral 4F (iprodione, 2) at 1.5 to 2 pt/A beginning one week after transplanting or thinning and again at 10 and 20 days later. For more information on control of Bottom Rot and Drop and other important diseases of lettuce please see the *2007 New Jersey Commercial Vegetable Production Recommendations Guide*.

✓ **Pumpkin - White mold or Sclerotinia rot** - White mold may cause problems when pumpkins are planted in the same field each year and in fields where other susceptible crops such as bean have been grown. Development of white mold is favored by prolonged, cold wet weather. Symptoms often begin to show up as a soft, mushy area around the stem as the fruit reaches maturity. Infected fruit often collapse inward near the stem. Large, black fruiting bodies (sclerotia) may be produced around infected areas. Sclerotia serve as overwintering and long-term survival structures. A long crop rotation is necessary to help control white mold. Infected fruit should be removed from the field immediately. Early maturing fruit left in the field for a prolonged time period are susceptible to white mold.

✓ **Pumpkin - Sunscald injury** - Sunscald injury occurs when pumpkin fruit are suddenly exposed to heavy sunlight during the latter stages of fruit ripening during the fall. Sunscald injury often occurs when pumpkin plants become prematurely defoliated in the early fall

by Powdery mildew or Downy mildew or when vines collapse due to *Phytophthora* blight or bacterial wilt. Symptoms of sunscald injury include the collapsing of rind tissue on the side of the fruit which is in direct contact with the afternoon sun. Sunscald injury often develops as a pinkish-red color on exposed fruit which becomes flat in appearance. Over time fruit tissue may become tan to brown and secondary pathogens often invade the sunscald injured areas of the fruit. To help reduce the potential for sunscald injury, maintain foliage for as long as necessary, especially if fruit are going to be left in the field for long periods.

✓ **Spinach – White Rust** – Symptoms of White rust include **irregular, chlorotic areas on the upper leaf surface with white, blister-like pustules developing on lower leaf surface**. Development of White rust is favored by cool nights and mild day temperatures with **prolonged periods of dew or fog which favor wet leaf surfaces**. Control of White rust begins with crop rotations of 2 or more years. Some varieties have partial resistance and should be used if possible. A preventative fungicide schedule should begin 2 to 3 weeks after planting, and/or **if weather conditions favor disease development**. There are a number of fungicides labeled for the control of White rust on spinach. For more information on the control of White rust on spinach please see the *2007 New Jersey Commercial Vegetable Production Recommendations*. □

Farmers Market Establishment Series: Competitor & Contributor Review

Jhilson Ortiz, Senior Program Coordinator - Agriculture

The classification of competitor and contributor for neighboring stores is not mutually exclusive, nor constant. Case in point, when a big retailer established a store in town, the store's offerings were a good reason to consider the newcomer a competitor. However; client traffic and sales increased after the competitor moved in. For the first 6 months sales increased, but they started decreasing afterward due to competitive new products and pricing introduction.

When reviewing businesses in the surroundings of the prospective location, consider:

- Products and activities that neighboring stores have – A convenience store can become an ally, offering products that complement yours. Example of a good complement store would be a specialty store in meats, breads, etc.

- Business location – Businesses located in better- seen locations and sell the same or similar products will be troublesome, even if your products and prices are better
- Business goals – Not every competitor will draw away sales from your store. If you have the right mix of promotion, price, and service, the clients will come. A good example of product/price mixing (in promotion) is manifested in “bulk” sales such as produce baskets targeted to certain consumer groups based on family size and ethnicity
- Business distance – 5 miles distance between each store in a densely populated area should most likely not worry you. The number and concentration of consumers compensates the competition presence. You should worry when you and your competitor are selling to the same consumer group
- Keep consumers informed of your business and social activities with local paper contributions/publications about how your farm improves natural resources, hosts social meetings, and provides new products

And last, not all neighboring retailers will generate the same results. Consumers buy with time and convenience in mind. □

Weekly Weather Summary

Keith Arnesen, Ph.D., Agricultural Meteorologist

Temperatures averaged near normal, averaging 63 degrees north, 66 degrees central and 68 degrees south. Extremes were 91 degrees at Trenton and Hammonton on the 11th, and 39 degrees at Flemington on the 17th. Weekly rainfall averaged 0.75 inches north, 0.76 inches central, and 0.78 inches south. The heaviest 24 hour total reported was 1.00 inches at Cape May Courthouse on the 11th to 12th. Estimated soil moisture, in percent of field capacity, this past week averaged 81 percent north, 73 percent central and 65 percent south. Four inch soil temperatures averaged 67 degrees north, 69 degrees central and 71 degrees south.

Weather Summary for the Week Ending 8 am Monday 9/17/ 7

WEATHER STATIONS	RAINFALL			TEMPERATURE				GDD BASE50		MON
	WEEK	TOTAL	DEP	MX	MN	AVG	DEP	TOT	DEP	%FC
CANOE BROOK	.91	43.44	15.41	84	43	65.	1	2996	519	85
CHARLOTTEBURG	.56	31.16	2.85	83	40	62.	1	2591	624	74
FLEMINGTON	.97	33.83	6.99	87	39	64.	0	2825	286	85
NEWTON	.56	27.92	1.83	82	40	62.	1	2557	336	76
FREEHOLD	1.07	32.86	6.76	87	41	66.	1	3079	388	82
LONG BRANCH	.78	31.90	5.46	79	48	65.	-1	2835	201	71
NEW BRUNSWICK	.75	38.22	11.73	83	43	65.	-1	2997	169	82
TOMS RIVER	.69	26.94	-.08	85	43	66.	0	2903	264	66
TRENTON	.52	27.50	2.42	91	45	67.	0	3142	208	60
CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE	1.66	18.23	-5.19	87	45	69.	0	3040	386	97
DOWNSTOWN	.39	20.26	-4.36	88	43	67.	0	3150	205	57
GLASSBORO	.55	24.26	-1.56	89	49	68.	1	3449	535	62
HAMMONTON	.37	20.51	-5.29	91	44	68.	1	3242	319	53
POMONA	1.29	22.18	-1.35	89	46	68.	3	3181	454	91
SEABROOK	.45	21.61	-2.05	89	45	68.	0	3457	494	56
SOUTH HARRISON	.51	24.50	-0.84	89	48	68	NA	3341	NA	NA
WES KLINE -- GDD BASE 40 PINEY HOLLOW	LAST WEEK 236 (Ending 9/10/07) THIS WEEK 189 (Ending 9/17/07)									

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Pesticide User Responsibility: Use pesticides safely and follow instructions on labels. The pesticide user is responsible for proper use, storage and disposal, residues on crops, and damage caused by drift. For specific labels, special local-needs label 24(c) registration, or section 18 exemption, contact RCE in your County.

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