

Vegetable Crop Update - #15
August 28, 2008

The vegetable crop update is archived on the Wisconsin Crop Manager website at: <http://ipcm.wisc.edu/wcm/>. We welcome your input and suggestions.

Important Dates: Haltvick Meeting, West Madison ARS – August 9, 11-3:00

Vegetable Disease Update 8-28-2008 - W. R. Stevenson, Department of Plant Pathology, UW-Madison, Tel. No. 608-262-6291, Email: wrs@plantpath.wisc.edu

Potatoes – Much of the acreage destined for storage will be vine killed in the next two weeks. With frost warnings posted this week for northern WI, you know that the end of the growing season is not far off. We've accumulated more severity values this year than in the past few seasons, indicating the importance of not bringing late blight inoculum into production areas. If late blight inoculum had been present this year, we would be looking at much higher expenses for disease control and harvest along with storage would be an adventure. This year, the bulk of the areas selling seed into Wisconsin are reported to be clean of late blight. With no late blight in Wisconsin this year and good prospects for planting clean seed next year, we should be looking at another year without late blight. As always going into the vinekill and harvest portions of the growing season, foliage including resprouts should be completely dead at harvest. Scouting activities should continue until harvest.

We've seen a significant jump in early blight severity over the past three weeks with over 85% of Russet Burbank foliage in untreated check plots exhibiting symptoms of this disease. There are several treatments with disease severity less than 30% and a few with severity less than 20%. This level of control should be reflected in higher yields and crop value. At this point in the growing season, I am suggesting the use of standard protectants to finish out the growing season. Avoid the use of strobilurins and the newer single site fungicides since any applications made from here to the end of the season with these materials would risk the selection of fungicide resistant pathogen strains. Curative treatments with these newer materials should be avoided. We want to keep these new materials in the toolbox for use in years to come as we plan our early to mid season applications.

Current data on fungicide efficacy for early blight control are now up on our website for review. (<http://www.plantpath.wisc.edu/wivegdis/> - See field trial progress report section)

Current P-Day (Early Blight) and Severity Value (Late Blight) Accumulations

| | Planted: | 50% EMERGENCE | P-Days | Severity Values | Calculation Date |
|------------------|----------------|------------------|------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Antigo area | Early - May 7 | June 4 | 615 | 56 | August 25 |
| | Mid - May 15 | June 11 | 554 | 40 | August 25 |
| | Late - May 23 | June 18 | 506 | 30 | August 25 |
| Grand Marsh area | Early - Apr 20 | May 23 | 721 | 95 | August 25 |
| | Mid - Apr 29 | May 28 | 692 | 95 | August 25 |
| | Late - May 5 | June 2 | 660 | 95 | August 25 |
| Hancock area | Early - Apr 16 | May 10 | 782 | 56 | August 25 |
| | Mid - Apr 23 | May 16 | 754 | 56 | August 25 |
| | Late - May 2 | May 23 | 719 | 56 | August 25 |
| Plover area | Early - Apr 14 | May 15 | 768 | 78 | August 25 |
| | Mid - Apr 22 | May 23 | 727 | 78 | August 25 |
| | Late - May 3 | June 1 | 676 | 76 | August 25 |
| Spooner | Apr 30 | June 2 | 652 | 21 | August 25 |
| | May 5 | June 9 | 602 | 20 | August 25 |

Visit our web site at (<http://www.plantpath.wisc.edu/wivegdis/index.htm>) where you can find updated P-Day and Severity Value information throughout the growing season.

Other Vegetable Crops:

It's pretty much the same story as last week for the rest of the vegetable crops. Still no downy mildew on cucurbits in Wisconsin, but powdery mildew is becoming more widespread. Warm days and cool nights with dew are highly favorable for powdery mildew. Curative sprays of fungicide after signs of the disease are prevalent are generally a waste of money and not effective. Tomatoes are suffering from Septoria leafspot and early blight, although fungicide sprays are very helpful in managing both diseases on tomatoes. As fruit ripen, symptoms of anthracnose on the fruit begin to appear. Some of these infections may have occurred weeks ago since infections can remain latent until the fruit begins to soften during ripening process. Timely protectant fungicide sprays during the season offer excellent protection against the anthracnose pathogen. Snap bean diseases appear under control since sparse rainfall has allowed growers to control the duration of soil and foliage wetting. Since early and midseason weather likely contributed to white mold infection of soybeans, growers should note the location of white mold outbreaks on soybeans and plan their future rotational programs with this in mind. You might also plan the application and incorporation of the biocontrol "Contans" to these infested areas before the soil is tilled after harvest. This application will help to destroy soilborne sclerotia of the white mold pathogen and provide control benefits on future susceptible crops grown in these fields.