



Vegetable Crop Update

A newsletter for commercial potato and vegetable growers prepared by the University of Wisconsin-Madison vegetable research and extension specialists

No. 5 – April 24, 2015

In This Issue

Late blight reminders and updates
Linuron herbicide update
Small acreage vegetable sustainability assessment
Hops updates

Calendar of Events

July 15 – UW-Hancock ARS Field Day, 1:00PM, Hancock, WI
July 17 – Rhinelander State Farm Field Day, Lelah Starks Elite Found. Seed Farm, Rhinelander, WI
August 20 – UWEX Langlade County Airport Field Day, Antigo, WI
August 25-27 – Wisconsin Farm Technology Days, Statz Bros., Inc. Farm, Sun Prairie, WI

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Late blight updates: The Wisconsin Administrative Code (ATCP 21.15(2)) requires potato cull piles to be fed, disked in or otherwise removed by **May 20**, to prevent late blight.

Nationally, in the past week, there were no new late blight diagnoses reported at www.usablight.org. So far in 2015, 7 Florida counties and 1 California county have reported late blight through the website. Additionally, I received notification last week that there have been a few potato fields in Frio County Texas that have late blight. To date, the strain has not yet been identified. The disease is being managed with fungicides on a tight 5-day schedule.

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Linuron herbicide update on coarse-textured, low organic matter soils in Wisconsin:

The Wisconsin DATCP notification from March 24, 2015 confirming the restriction of Lorox and Linex 4L herbicides on sand or loamy sand soils still stands as of the writing of this update on April 22, 2015. The notification is included at the bottom of this article as a reminder. The pesticide registrant, Tessenlerlo Kerley, Inc., is working on two applications for Wisconsin Special Local Needs registrations: one for Lorox on carrots and one for Linex 4L on potatoes and soybeans. The applications are currently in the submission and review process at WI DATCP with input from US EPA, but are not yet approved for use. The focus of the review appears centered on groundwater concerns.

This situation is most concerning and timely for carrots on these soils. For carrots that have not yet been planted, growers might consider a pre-emergent herbicide to start the season “clean”, such as Prowl H₂O. This herbicide should be applied within 2 days after planting. Oats planted at the same time as the carrots as a windbreak will likely be at least suppressed, but established rye will not be controlled. Weeds emerged at the time of application also will not be controlled.

For many growers, it is time to consider upcoming early post-emergent weed control options on the carrots that have already been planted. The active ingredient prometryn, sold as the trade names Caparol 4L and Vegetable Pro, can be applied through the 6 leaf carrot growth stage. The weed control spectrum is fairly broad and the herbicide will control small, emerged weeds as well as provide some residual weed control. The nurse grain crops may also be controlled. This herbicide active ingredient is relatively new in carrots and commercial experience is limited. The risk of potential crop injury may be reduced by using lower rates on coarse-textured, low organic matter soils. Please see the labels for these products for more use instructions and precautions.

Updates on the linuron situation will continue to be provided as soon as available.

DATCP notification:

“The Agrichemical Bureau at DATCP has recently learned that some growers may be using pesticide products containing the active ingredient (AI) linuron in a manner that is inconsistent with the label.

The two pesticide products registered for use in Wisconsin that contain linuron go by the brand names of Lorox and Linex 4L. The labeling requirements of these two products specify that they are not to be applied to sites that have sand or loamy sand soils.

DATCP has prepared this notice of finding to distribute to pertinent stakeholders to prevent the potential use of these two products in sand or loamy sand environments. DATCP would also like to point out that soil restrictions are the result of groundwater threats stated on the product labels. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact DATCP Pesticide Specialist Otto Oemig at (608) 224-4547 or DATCP Investigation & Compliance Section Chief Mark McCloskey at (608) 224-4530.”

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Small acreage vegetable sustainability assessment, 2015: In late 2014, the University of Wisconsin received a Department of Agriculture Specialty Crop Block Grant to document on-farm sustainability for small acreage, commercial vegetable crops in Wisconsin. This program allows these small acreage industries to take advantage of surging consumer and supply chain demand for sustainably-produced crops by promotion of existing achievements and defining pathways to continual improvement. Through this program we will be focusing on **onions, carrots, cucumbers and peppers for pickling, cabbage for kraut, beets and kidney beans.**

Agriculture is often maligned by negative perceptions concerning the sustainability of production practices. Much of this stems from a general failure of farmers to document and promote the good things that they do. To help this, we have worked with growers, association members and processors to develop an assessment tool that includes all appropriate whole-farm and crop specific practices that relate to sustainability. This data is collected in an anonymous, on-line manner and used to benchmark the respective industries on sustainability adoption and practices. This information can be used to promote positive aspect of agriculture, and inform key areas where improvements could be made.

We are currently collecting online data for this assessment at:

<http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/2050565/Small-Acreage-Vegetable-Crop-Assessments-WI-2015>. If you grow one of these small acreage crops, please fill out the online assessment. Also, please contact and/or forward to other growers who fit under those criteria. The more assessments we receive, the more complete the dataset which will better allow the industries to publicize their efforts. For more info, contact Deana Knuteson (dknuteson@wisc.edu , 608-347-8236) or Jeff Wyman (wyman@entomology.wisc.edu , 608-444-4756).

Spring 2015 Hop Update – by Michelle Marks, Graduate Research Assistant with Amanda Gevens, UW-Plant Pathology, Madison, WI

Another growing season is upon us and the hops are off to the races! The first buds were just appearing during the first week of April in many areas of the state. Early varieties like Sterling were coming up with greater frequency, but others such as Nugget, Columbus, and Chinook had started emerging also. This week (4/13-4/17) shoots range in size from just an inch or two tall to over a foot high here in southern Wisconsin, depending on the age of the plant and variety.

The cool, wet weather we experience here during the spring months is perfect for downy mildew development. **Basal spikes with sporulating downy mildew were observed on April 21 in Dodge County on the varieties Nugget, Horizon, and Santiam, making this the first confirmation of the 2015 growing season.** These spikes are often chlorotic and yellow-green in color, standing out quite well against darker healthy hop shoots. Basal spikes are also generally stunted with shortened internodes and down-curling leaves. Sporulation (black/gray fuzz) may be visible on the undersides of the leaves. As the disease advances, plant tissues will start to appear brown and necrotic from the ground up.

Chemical control is an option for early-season disease control. A 2015 updated list of fungicides registered in Wisconsin for control of hop downy mildew can be found under the “Hops” tab of the UW Vegetable Pathology website located [here](#). Many growers also choose to perform a thorough spring pruning which removes all living above-ground tissue in an effort to reduce disease severity and establish more even growth across varieties. It should be noted that the potential effects of such pruning on yield has not been evaluated here in Wisconsin. Additional information regarding these practices can be found in the *Field Guide for Integrated Pest Management in Hops*: a free resource available online [here](#).

As always, the University of Wisconsin Plant Disease Diagnostic Clinic here on campus at the UW-Madison is fully equipped to receive and analyze plant samples of all types for a small fee. Samples can be sent to:

**Plant Disease Diagnostics Clinic
Department of Plant Pathology
University of Wisconsin-Madison
1630 Linden Drive
Madison, WI 53706-1598**

For full sample collection/packaging instructions and additional information please visit the clinic website at <http://labs.russell.wisc.edu/pddc/> or contact Dr. Brian Hudelson at 608-262-286.



Basal spike identified in Dodge County. Note the chlorotic appearance of this shoot in comparison to healthy shoots in background.