

This is the Muck Station Report and IPM Information for Monday September 29, 2008.

As of today we are finished officially scouting our research plots and grower fields. The agriphone will still be updated once per week, at the beginning of each week.

To reduce the development of white rot in storage, make sure that the onions are very dry before they are stored. Heat curing may be the best approach. Growers should also make every effort to remove culls to reduce problems of onion maggot and diseases for next season.

Temperatures started to cool down. The forecasted high temperatures should reach the mid 10's and cooler nights with possible showers during the week.

A total of 6.4 mm rain has been accumulated between September 22 and 28.

We found this morning new downy mildew infections on lettuce on station. Considering the weather, risk is moderate. Risk will increase if significant rain falls, if the crop is close to maturity and or if you already have lettuce downy mildew present in the field.

Carrot rust fly numbers around the Holland Marsh are generally low. Remember, there is no need to spray carrots for rust fly if they are 3 weeks or less from harvest.

Carrot leaf blights continue to develop around the Holland Marsh. Growers should monitor your fields regularly and spray your carrots with fungicide to control leaf blights. Carrot disease control recommendations are listed on page 97 in publication 363 of the 2008-2009 edition

Growers should also monitor your fields regularly for symptoms of Sclerotinia. Infection in the field starts at the base of the leaf stalk, causing the petiole to turn brown and die. Currently there are no registered fungicides to effectively control the disease but maintaining a healthy crop may help. These include rotation with a non-susceptible crop. Avoid rotating with susceptible crops like lettuce or celery. Use wider row spacing to encourage good air movement. Foliar trimming of the carrot canopy also has potential for reducing the severity of Sclerotinia.

Celery growers should regularly check your fields for late blight, which develops brownish-black leaf spots. Both spores of early and late blight transfer from plant to plant either by splashing water or wind. Control methods for early or late blight in celery can be found on page 91 in publication 363, vegetable production recommendations.

Leaf miners can attack celery, leafy greens and brassicas. Leaf miners cause damage to leaves by stippling the leaf during search for laying eggs and during larval feeding or "mining" of leaf tissue between the upper and lower surfaces. Cultivation of crop debris or removal of infected plant material from fields can reduce the incidence of damage. For chemical control options consult the OMAFRA publication 363 of the 2008-2009 edition.

Aster leafhopper counts on station and fields around the Holland Marsh are generally low.