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MUCK CROPS RESEARCH STATION IPM 2013

This is the Muck Crops Research Station Report and IPM Information for September 24, 2013

This week is the last for scouting all crops around the Holland Marsh. However, if there are pest or disease issues in the fields or storage, growers are welcome to bring samples to the Muck Crops Research Station if necessary. The IPM information will still be updated once a week until the end of October, at the beginning of each week.

Most onions around the marsh have been harvested. To reduce the development of white rot and other storage diseases, make sure that onions are dry before they are stored. Artificial heat curing would be recommended to reduce the development of storage-rot pathogens. The application of sclerotial germination stimulants such as garlic oil or diallyl disulfide (DADS) is also effective in reducing the incidence of white rot in onions.

Onions left in the field are the main sources of overwintering maggot and act as disease reservoirs. Thus, growers should make every effort to remove these culls to reduce problems for next season.

The carrot rust fly numbers are generally low in most parts of the marsh, but high numbers were found in some carrot fields. Spray thresholds are 0.1 flies/trap/day for fresh market and 0.2 for processing carrots. Remember there is no need to spray carrots for rust fly if they are 3 weeks from harvest

Carrot leaf blight has continued to develop around the Marsh. As canopies close, moisture and humidity levels increase, the risk of blight also increases. The spray threshold is 25% disease incidence (i.e. 25% of the plants scouted show symptoms).

We observed sclerotinia rot in carrots around the marsh. Infection in the field starts at the base of the leaf stalk, causing the petiole to turn brown and die. Infection can also begin on the senesced leaves in the furrow and grows down the leaf and petiole. Foliar trimming of the carrot canopy can reduce sclerotinia rot. Fungicides applied to control carrot leaf blights, such as Lance and Pristine, may also suppress sclerotinia rot. For post-harvest control of sclerotinia rot, an emergency use registration for SCHOLAR fungicide has been announced by PMRA. Scholar is only effective when applied to washed carrots. Scholar can be applied as a post-harvest dip or drench immediately before storage. Follow the labels carefully.

Celery growers should regularly check their fields for early and late blights. We observed early blight and late blight in celery around the Marsh. Both spores of early and late blight transfer from plant to plant either by splashing water or wind. Human activity also transfers the disease very easily especially when the plants are wet.

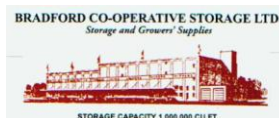
Aster leafhoppers numbers are low in all parts of the Holland marsh to warrant insecticide spray.

Risk of downy mildew of lettuce is moderate to high. Symptoms of downy mildew have been seen in lettuce plots at our research station.

Soils in harvested fields should be protected from erosion. Seeding spring barely or oilseed radish as cover crop can help reduce soil erosion.

A total of 51 mm rain was accumulated between September 18 and September 23. The soil temperature at the Muck Crops Research Station at 10 and 20 cm depth is currently 13.7 and 15.2°C respectively.

ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS? Call Michael Tesfaendrias or Mary Ruth McDonald at 905-775-3783



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