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MUCK CROPS RESEARCH STATION IPM 2013

This is the Muck Crops Research Station Report and IPM Information for September 11, 2013

We would like to thank all the growers, seed industry representatives and OMAFRA experts for attending the 2013 Muck Crops Research Station's annual field day. We also would like to thank John Verkaik from Solar Seed for sponsoring the lunch and Jim Robinson from Stokes Seeds for sponsoring the coffee and donuts.

The carrot rust fly activity has increased in most parts of the marsh. The carrot rust fly count at our research station was 0.03 flies/trap/day. Pesticide spray thresholds are 0.1 and 0.2 flies/trap/day for fresh market and processing carrots respectively. There is no need to spray carrots for rust fly control if they are 3 weeks from harvest.

Growers should periodically inspect their fields for onion white rot by checking any yellowing, stunted or wilting plants. Be sure to rogue out infected areas. 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.

The onion fly activity around the marsh is low. No insecticide spray is recommended at this time. Onions left in the field are the main sources of overwintering maggot and disease reservoirs. Thus, growers should make every effort to remove these culls to reduce problems for next season.

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). Bravo, Echo, mancozeb (Dithane, Penncozeb and Manzate), Pristine, Cabrio, Lance, Cantus, Switch, Flint, Fontelis, Quadris Top and Allegro are registered fungicides.

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.

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 barley or oilseed radish as cover crop can help reduce soil erosion.

A total of 17.9 mm rain was accumulated between September 4 and September 10. The soil temperature at the Muck Crops Research Station at 10 and 20 cm depth is currently 19.5 and 17.6°C respectively.

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



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