



MUCK CROPS RESEARCH STATION IPM 2011

This is the Muck Crops Research Station Report and IPM Information for Tuesday July 12, 2011

The weather remains relatively warmer with no rain predicted for the coming four days. It has been more than 15 days since we received significant amount of rainfall. We have observed growers irrigating their fields around the Marsh. A combination of warm weather and moisture from rain or irrigation makes a good environment for bacterial infection. Irrigation also results in extended leaf wetness period. Therefore the risk of foliar disease symptoms appearing in crops may increase especially in fields that have larger canopy.

Onion thrips count started to increase in most onion fields around the Marsh including onion plots at our Station. The thrips count at our station increased to 0.6 thrips/leaf. With warm weather, thrips population will continue to increase. Thus, monitor your field regularly. The threshold for insecticide application is 1 thrips per leaf.

BOTCAST has a cumulative disease severity index (CDSI) of 38. Risk of developing botrytis on onions at this time is moderate to high although lesion counts are low. Growers should monitor their fields regularly for botrytis leaf blight and apply fungicide if their field has 3 lesion/leaf. The first spray threshold is when the CDSI is more than 30 or when botrytis lesion count is 3/leaf, Recommendations for fungicide spray are listed on page 138 of the OMAFRA's publication 363.

DOWNCAST predicted a sporulation infection period in the last 4 days. Taking into account the the weather forecast, risk of downy mildew on onions is moderate. If leaf wetness is prolonged, risk of downy mildew will increase as crop canopies are getting larger. No downy mildew has been reported around the marsh.

The carrot rust fly activity around the marsh is very low. No rust fly was caught on sticky traps at our station.

The onion fly activity around the marsh is generally low. Onion fly count at our station was 0.5 flies/trap/day. However, the count will start to increase as we have reached the degree day threshold for the second generation emergence.

We have seen tarnished plant bug (TPB) damage on celery. Spray thresholds are 0.1 TPB/plant (from transplanting until three weeks before harvest) and 0.2 TBP/plant (durinf the last 3 weeks before harvest) and/or 6% of the plants showing damage. Besides pesticide control, good weed control is an important management tool for reduction in TPB populations.

Aster leafhoppers have been caught in all areas of the marsh, but the numbers on sticky trap counts remain low. Continue to watch for aster leafhoppers in crops like celery, lettuce and carrots, which are vulnerable to aster yellows.

BREMCAST predicted a sporulation infection period in the last 4 days. Risk of downy mildew incidence on lettuce is moderate to high. Symptoms of downy mildew have been seen in lettuce fields around the Marsh.

On July 7 at the Research Station the soil temperature at 5 and 10 cm depth was 22 and 21°C respectively. No rain fell between July 8 and July 11.

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

