

## MUCK CROPS RESEARCH STATION IPM 2010

### This is the Muck Crops Research Station Report and IPM Information for Tuesday, August 24, 2010

In lodging onions Maleic hydrazide (Royal MH 60) is applied to limit sprouting and extend the storage life of many onion cultivars. Onions should have more than 3 green leaves when MH 60 is applied. The optimum time for application is when at least 50 percent of the tops have fallen, but tops are still green. Best results are obtained when MH 60 is applied in the early morning or on a cloudy day, and 24 hours before or after rain.

DOWNCAST has predicted a sporulation infection period in the last 4 days. Risk of downy mildew on onions is moderate to high. Onion fields should continue to be sprayed as long as onions are standing. Refer page 138 of the OMAFRA's publication 363 for registered fungicides.

BOTCAST has a cumulative disease severity index (CDSI) of 42. Risk of developing botrytis on onions at this time is moderate high. Botrytis development at our station has increased. Spray threshold is when the CDSI is 30 or when botrytis lesion count is 3 lesions/leaf. Recommendations for fungicide spray are listed on page 138 of the OMAFRA's publication 363.

Bacterial diseases continue to be a problem in celery, lettuce and onions. Copper sprays may reduce bacterial disease spread but cannot be used on every crop. Check the label carefully.

Thrips activity started to slow down. Thrips count at our Research Station was 0.4 thrips/leaf. Spray threshold is 1 thrips/leaf.

Onion maggot fly activity currently has decreased. The count at our station was 0.1 flies/trap/day.

Onion white rot has been found on onion fields with in the Holland Marsh. Periodically inspect your fields for onion white rot. Extra caution should be taken to avoid the spread of the disease within a field. We also noticed pink root in several onion fields.

A total of 30 mm rain was accumulated between August 20 and 23. We observed rain pelting damage on onions at our research station. The soil temperature at the Muck Crops Research Station at 5 and 10 cm depth is currently 19.9 and 19.3°C.

Carrot leaf blight has continued to develop. As canopies close, moisture and humidity levels increase and thus the risk of blight increases. A fungicide should be applied as the canopy close over.

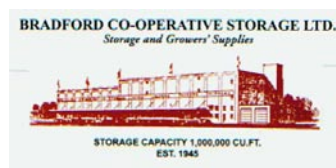
Carrot rust fly count has dropped in most parts of the Holland Marsh, but increased in some isolated, sheltered areas. No carrot rust fly was caught on sticky traps at our research station.

Celery growers should check regularly your fields for late blight, which develops brownish-black leaf spots. Thus far we have not found late blight around the Marsh including celery plots at our research station.

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

We have seen tarnished plant bug damages on celery and lettuce. Thresholds are 0.1 TPB/plant (from transplanting until three weeks before harvest) and 0.2 TPB/ plant (during the last three weeks before harvest) and/or 6% of the plants showing damage. Besides pesticide control, good weed control is an important management tool to reduce TPB populations.

BREMCAST has predicted a sporulation infection period in the last 4 days. Risk of downy mildew



incidence on lettuce is moderate to high.

Protect your muck soils from erosion. Seeding spring barely or oilseed radish as cover crops after lettuce, celery, early onions and carrots can help reduce erosion.

The Muck Crops Research Station annual field day is Thursday, September 2, 2010 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. All growers are invited and encouraged to drop by. The field day will feature a demonstration of a new piece of equipment, a Carrot Trimmer, to cut back carrot leaves for control of *Sclerotinia* in carrots. The demonstration will be at 1:15 PM at the Jane Street Research Site at the corner of Jane street and Woodchoppers Lane. Coffee and donuts will be provided by Jim Robinson from Stokes Seeds. Lunch will be complements of John Verkaik from Solar Seed.

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

