



MUCK CROPS RESEARCH STATION IPM 2010

This is the Muck Crops Research Station Report and IPM Information for Friday, Sept 3, 2010

This week is the final scouting for onions in the Holland Marsh. Carrots, lettuce and celery will be scouted once a week until end of September. Therefore this IPM report (Agriphone) will be updated once a week either Mondays or Tuesdays.

Many seeded onion fields are in wind rows and More than 80% of the onions have lodged in most of the fields. Once the onions have fallen over leaf diseases are of less concern.

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.

Onion maggot fly activity around the Marsh is low. No insecticide spray is recommended at this time

Periodically inspect your fields for onion white rot. Extra caution should be taken to avoid the spread of the disease within a field.

A total of 8 mm rain was accumulated between August 31 and Sep 2. The soil temperature at the Muck Crops Research Station at 5 and 10 cm depth is currently 20.9 and 20.3°C.

Due to the warmer weather we have development of Sclerotinia on carrots may slow down. However, fields should be monitored 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. Foliar trimming of the carrot canopy can reduce Sclerotinia. Fungicides applied to control carrot leaf blights, such as Lance and Pristine, *may* also suppress Sclerotinia on carrots.

Carrot leaf blight has continued to develop. Thus, carrot fields should be sprayed regularly as the canopy close over.

Carrot rust fly count has dropped in most parts of the Holland Marsh.

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, a lettuce downy mildew forecasting model, has predicted no sporulation infection period over the past 3 days. Risk of downy mildew on lettuce at this time is moderate.

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

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

