



## MUCK CROPS RESEARCH STATION IPM 2010

### This is the Muck Crops Research Station Report and IPM Information for Wednesday, Sept 8, 2010

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.

Onion maggot fly activity around the Marsh is low. The count at our Research Station was 0.1 flies/trap/day. No insecticide spray is recommended at this time

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.

Carrot 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. The count at our Station was 0.02 flies/trap/day, which is below insecticide spray threshold. Spray thresholds are 0.1 flies/trap/day for fresh market and 0.2 for processing carrots.

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. Bacterial leaf spot remains the main concern in celery around the Holland Marsh.

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

Tarnished plant bug activity around the Holland Marsh is moderate. Tarnished plant bug (TPB) damages have been confirmed on celery and lettuce. Thresholds are 0.2 TPB/plant (from transplanting until three weeks before harvest) and 0.1 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 a sporulation infection period over the past 3 days. Risk of downy mildew on lettuce at this time is moderate.

A total of 32.8 mm rain was accumulated between September 3 and 7. The soil temperature at the Muck Crops Research Station at 5 and 10 cm depth is currently 17.8°C.

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

