MUCK CROPS RESEARCH STATION IPM 2010

This is the Muck Crops Research Station Report and IPM Information for Tuesday, Sept 28, 2010

This week is the final for scouting all crops around the Holland Marsh. The IPM report (Agriphone) will still be updated once a week, at the beginning of each week.

Most onions in the Holland Marsh have been harvested. It is important that onions are dried, and then cooled properly for storage to reduce the risk of bacterial rots, white rot and botrytis neck rot and to maintain quality.

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.

In carrots, carrot rust fly numbers are generally low in all areas. Spray thresholds are 0.1 flies/trap/day for fresh market and 0.2 for processing carrots. Remember there is no need to spray carrots for rust fly if they are 3 weeks from harvest.

With cooler weather, heavy dews and closed thick canopies, carrot leaf blights and Sclerotinia can increase in carrot fields. Growers should monitor your fields regularly for symptoms of Sclerotinia in between the rows underneath the lodged leaves. Infection in the field starts at the base of the leaf stalk, causing the petiole to turn brown and die. We have seen infected carrots at our station and carrot fields around the Holland Marsh. Foliar trimming of the carrot canopy can reduce Sclerotinia. Growers are encouraged to visit carrot trimming trial at our demonstration site at the corner of Jane and Wood coppers Lane. At this time, growers should spray regularly to control leaf blight of carrots. Fungicides applied to control carrot leaf blight, such as Lance and Pristine, may also suppress Sclerotinia on carrots.

For post harvest control of Sclerotinia, an emergency use registration for Scholar has been announced by PMRA. Scholar is only effective when applied to washed carrots. Harvesting carrots when the ground is cool and cooling the carrots as quickly as possible also reduces white rot from developing in storage.

Celery growers should check regularly your fields for late blight, which develops brownish-black leaf spots. We found early blight in celery plots at our research station. Bacterial leaf spot remains the main concern in celery around the Holland Marsh.

A total of 21.1 mm rain was accumulated between September 14 and 20. The soil temperature at the Muck Crops Research Station at 5 and 10 cm depth is currently 14.8 and 15.1^{o}C.

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

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.

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