



## MUCK CROPS RESEARCH STATION IPM 2009

### This is the Muck Crops Research Station report and IPM Information for Friday August 21, 2009

Thrips count has increased around the Marsh. Fields should be checked carefully. Border sprays are effective for early infestation. If you find 1 thrips per leaf, it is time to apply insecticide.

DOWNCAST, a downy mildew forecasting model, has predicted no sporulation infection periods in the last 4 days. Risk of downy mildew development at this time is moderate. However, considering the high downy mildew incidence we had and growth stage of the crop, risk remains high. Growers should continue to spray regularly.

Risk of developing botrytis on onion at this moment is moderate. Growers should monitor your fields for botrytis leaf blight and apply fungicide spray if you have more than 1 lesion/leaf.

Purple blotch occurs when warm temperatures (18-30°C) coincide with prolonged dews. Weaker plants or those affected by other diseases such as blight and downy mildew are at high risk.

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

In lodging onion fields maleic hydrazide (Royal MH 60) is applied to limit sprouting and extend the storage life of many onion cultivars. The optimum time for application is when at least 50 percent of the tops have fallen but the 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.

Risk of Sclerotinia on carrots remains high in most areas of the Marsh, based on spore trapping. Check carrots for symptoms of Sclerotinia infection: white mould on dying leaves on the soil. Trimming of carrot tops can reduce Sclerotinia. Fungicides applied to control carrot leaf blights, such as Lance and Pristine, *may* also suppress Sclerotinia on carrots. For post harvest control of Sclerotinia, an emergency use registration for Scholar has just been announced by PMRA. Scholar is only effective when applied to washed carrots.

Aster leafhopper counts on station and fields around the Holland Marsh are currently low. Carefully check young plantings of celery and lettuce.

Carrot rust fly count is variable and increased in some sheltered areas. Pesticide spray is warranted when you have 0.1 flies/trap/day in fresh market carrots and 0.2 in processing carrots.

Continue a regular spray of micronutrients on celery. Celery growers should regularly check their fields for both early blight and late blight.

Risk of downy mildew on lettuce at this time is moderate.

The Muck Crops Research Station annual field day will be held on Thursday September 3, 2009 from 8:30 am to 4 pm. All growers are invited and encouraged to drop by.

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

