



MUCK CROPS RESEARCH STATION IPM 2009

This is the Muck Crops Research Station report and IPM Information for Tuesday August 25, 2009

DOWNCAST, a downy mildew forecasting model, has predicted one sporulation infection period in the last 4 days. Risk of downy mildew development is high. Onion fields should continue to be sprayed as long as onions are standing.

Thrips count has increased around the Marsh. Fields should be checked carefully. Border sprays are effective for early infestation. Apply insecticide if you find 1 thrips per leaf.

Botrytis development has slowed down. Check your fields closely for purple blotch and bacterial infections.

Periodically inspect your fields for white rot. Be sure to rogue out infected area.

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

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

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.

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.

Carrot leaf blights continue to develop in most carrot fields. Warm and wet nights create ideal conditions for disease progress. A fungicide should be applied as the carrot rows close over.

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.

BREMCAST, a lettuce downy mildew forecasting model, has predicted couple of sporulation infection periods over the past 4 days. Risk of downy mildew on lettuce at this time is high. Growers should apply fungicide.

The Muck Crops Research Station annual field day is 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



