



MUCK CROPS RESEARCH STATION IPM 2009

This is the Muck Crops Research Station report and IPM Information for Tuesday September 15, 2009

Onions left in the field after harvest are the major source of overwintering onion maggot and they act as disease reservoirs. Growers should make every effort to remove these culls to reduce problems next season.

Onion white rot has been found on onion fields within the Holland Marsh. If you find white rot in your field, pull the onions as early as possible. To reduce the development of white rot in storage, make sure that the onions are very dry before they are stored.

Application of Maleic hydrazide (Royal MH 60) stops the sprouting of onions in storage and extends 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.

Bacterial diseases have been observed in onion, celery and lettuce. Copper spray may reduce the spread of bacterial diseases, but copper cannot be used on every crop. Check the label first. To reduce losses caused by bacterial diseases, onion should be harvested only when the bulbs are fully matured and the weather is dry. Minimize all types of damages to bulbs and provide good storage conditions. If possible, diseased or damaged onions should not be put into storage.

At the moment risk of development of Sclerotinia on carrot fields is low to moderate. With heavy dews and closed thick canopies, leaf blights can increase rapidly in carrot fields. Growers should monitor your fields and regularly spray carrots with fungicide to control leaf blights.

Carrot rust fly count has decreased in most parts of the Holland Marsh, but may be high 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. Remember there is no need to spray carrots for rust fly if they are 3 weeks from harvest.

Celery growers should regularly check your fields for late blight, which develops brownish-black leaf spots. Both spores of early and late blight transfer from plant to plant either by splashing water or wind.

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

Tarnished plant bug counts and damage in celery at our research station are below threshold.

We found this morning new downy mildew infections on lettuce on station. BREMCAST also has predicted a couple of sporulation infection periods over the past few days. At this moment risk of downy mildew of lettuce is moderate to high. Risk will increase if the crop is close to maturity and/or if you already have lettuce downy mildew present in the field.

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

