



## MUCK CROPS RESEARCH STATION IPM 2009

### **This is the Muck Crops Research Station report and IPM Information for Tuesday September 22, 2009**

Protect your muck soils from wind erosion and early spring runoff. Fall planted winter cover crops can help reduce erosion. Seed spring barley or oilseed radish after lettuce, celery, early onions and carrots. Seed barley at 84 kg/ha or oilseed radish at 11-22 kg/ha.

Onion fly count at our station has been low at 1.3 flies/trap/day. Onion fly count will drop as the temperature gets cooler.

Once the onions have fallen over and the MH is applied foliar diseases such as botrytis blight and thrips are of less concern.

To reduce the development of white rot in storage, make sure that the onions are very dry before they are stored. Heat curing may be the best approach. Growers should also make every effort to remove culls to reduce problems of onion maggot and diseases for next season.

Carrot leaf blights continue to develop around the Holland Marsh. With heavy dews, rain 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

Growers should also monitor your fields 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. At the moment risk of development of Sclerotinia on carrot fields is low to moderate.

Carrot rust fly numbers around the Holland Marsh are generally low. Remember, there is no need to spray carrots for rust fly if they are 3 weeks or less 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 lettuce for aster leafhoppers and aphids.

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

Risk of downy mildew of lettuce remains 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. We found this morning new downy mildew infections on lettuce on station.

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

