



MUCK CROPS RESEARCH STATION IPM 2009

This is the Muck Crops Research Station report and IPM Information for Tuesday September 29, 2009

This week will be the last for scouting all crops around the Holland Marsh. The IPM information will still be updated once a week, at the beginning of each week.

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 activity will slow down with the onset of cold weather. Today's onion fly count at the station was 0.2 flies/trap/day.

Onions left in the field are the major source of overwintering onion maggot and they also act as disease reservoirs. Growers should remove these culls.

Onion white rot is severe in several areas around the Holland Marsh. To reduce the development of white rot in storage, make sure that the onions are very dry before they are stored. Artificial heat curing may reduce the development of the disease.

A total of 41.3 mm rain fell between September 21 and 28.

Carrot leaf blights continue to develop around the Holland Marsh. 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 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. Spore counts are low, but the current weather conditions are very conducive for the development of Sclerotinia rot. 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.

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.

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.

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

