

This is the Muck Station Report and IPM Information for Monday June 02, 2008.

Crops are growing slowly in the Holland Marsh due to the cold weather we had in May. The weather started to warm up and is predicted to reach into high 20's this week with 90% probability of rain for Tuesday. A total of 14.8 rain was accumulated between May 30 and 1st of June.

We are scouting for onion thrips on station. No thrips have been caught on the white sticky cards. Thrips will most likely be detected first in onion transplants. If you have onion transplants begin looking for thrips now. If your field is less than 5 acres or less, look at 50 random plants, if greater than 5 look at 100. Be sure to include areas in the field where you historically have seen high thrips damage, around shelters and near weedy edges. Count the total number of thrips on the plant and remember to pull apart the leaves when counting. Divide the total number of thrips by the total number of plants checked and then divide that by the average number of leaves per plant. The threshold for pesticide application is 1 thrips per leaf.

Onion maggot degree days are presently at 368 so we are well on our way into the first generation peak. Onion fly activity has on our station picked up considerably. Onion maggot counts on station have increased to 4.6 flies/trap/day and at our other research site on Woodchoppers lane they have increased to 7.1 flies/trap/day. Thresholds apply to the second generation of flies, control for first generation is at seeding.

Carrot Weevil DD is presently at 217 and we have reached the degree day threshold where adults start to lay eggs, which is basically now. The cumulative weevil count at the station is 3.4/trap. At our other research site on Woodchoppers Lane the cumulative weevil count is 2.4 weevils/trap. Both counts are above threshold.

The threshold for weevils is a cumulative count of 1.5 weevils/trap. Imidan is registered for the control of carrot weevils. For cumulative counts between 1.5 and 5 weevils/trap, one treatment is recommended at the 2nd leaf stage. For counts above 5 weevils/trap an additional treatment is recommended at the 4th leaf stage.

Celery is also a host crop for weevils. Weevil damage in celery can be avoided by transplanting well after weevil egg hatch. If the eggs hatch and there is no food then the larvae should die.

Carrot Rust Fly is at 426 DD therefore the bulk of the first generation are still emerging. Carrot rust flies have been found on the orange sticky traps at our station. The counts on station are 0.21 flies/trap/day, which is above threshold level for both fresh market carrots. Thresholds for fresh market carrots are 0.1 flies/trap/day and for processing 0.2.

Tarnished plant bug DD are well past emergence and therefore they should be out and about in your celery and lettuce fields. We have not caught or seen any tarnished plant bugs or damage on station. The adult bugs are 6 mm long and brown or tan in colour. They have a small distinctive triangular marking on their backs. When scouting celery or lettuce look in the plant and up and down stems.

Aster leafhopper DD are at 138, overwintering egg hatch is occurring and there should be some adults that have immigrated on the warm southerly winds from the US. On station we use orange sticky traps to scout for aster leafhoppers. We have not caught any aster leafhoppers on station yet.

The 2008-2009 versions of the pub 363 Vegetable Production Recommendations and pub 75 Guide to Weed Control are available from OMAFRA. All page numbers listed in the Agriphone are for these editions of the guides.

Onion Herbicides recommendations can be found in Publication 75 the “Ontario Guide to Weed Control” on pages 230-232. On muck soils, apply Prowl 400 at the loop stage and again at the 2nd true leaf stage. Prowl works best if rain or irrigation is received within seven days of application. Prowl controls weeds as they emerge but do not control any existing weeds. Frontier will help suppress yellow nutsedge before the yellow nutsedge has emerged, apply only once per season at the loop stage.

Many of the onion fields in the Holland Marsh are in the first true leaf stage and in a few fields the second true leaf is emerging.

Keep an eye on the barley wind breaks and spray when they are 10 to 15 cm (4 - 6 inches) in height. Both Poast Ultra and Select are registered for this use in onions. The rate for Poast in onions is 0.32 - 1.1L/ha with the surfactant Merge at 1 - 2.0L/ha. Select can be applied at 0.38 L/ha. Be certain to maintain good coverage. Use flat fan nozzles for good coverage.

For control of weeds on muck soils, apply Prowl 400 at the loop stage and again at the 2nd true leaf stage. Prowl works best if rain or irrigation is received within seven days of application. Prowl controls weeds as they emerge but do not control any existing weeds. Goal is registered for control of broadleaf weeds after the onions have two fully developed leaves. The onions should be exposed to one or better yet two sunny days before application.

A complete list of herbicides for pre and post-emergence weed control in carrots is listed on 219-221 in pub. 75. Do not use Gesagard near the time of crop emergence or once the crop has emerged. Use Lorox once the carrots are in the 2 leaf stage, 8 to 15 cm tall. Lorox appears to work best if applied when sunny and when a few sunny days are expected post application. Note that emerging carrots are very sensitive to Lorox and severe injury may occur if there is heavy rain, or if the area is irrigated.

Before transplanting celery, check all the transplants for the small, dark brown spots that are the first signs of Septoria late blight. Don't use any transplants that are infected with late blight.