

This is the Muck Station Report and IPM Information for May 5, 2008.

Today May 5 and Tuesday May 6 are ideal days for onion seeding. Soils are wet due to the rain that we had last week. Between May 2 and May 4, there was 28.8 mm of rain. Our local weatherman is predicting 80 to 90 percent chance of rain for Wednesday and Thursday.

Degree Days started to accumulate as the weather warms up and will accumulate much faster in the next two days. Onion Maggot degree days are presently at 168, the bulk of the first generation flies emerge around 210 DD and we are approaching the emergence of the first generation.

Carrot weevil traps are set on station. Weevils overwinter in plant debris particularly in sheltered grassy areas such as ditches and around barns. Carrot Weevil DD are presently at 98.4 and adults will begin to lay eggs at 138-156 DD. We are approaching the emergence of the first generation threshold. Weevils overwinter in plant debris particularly in sheltered grassy areas such as ditches and around barns. 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.

Carrot Rust Fly is at 194.2 DD and overwintering adults emerge at 329 DD. Tarnished plant bug and aster leafhopper DD are just beginning to accumulate. Tarnished plant bug degree day is 40 and currently are at 28. Aster leafhopper degree days are presently at 66.7, the bulk of the first generation flies emerge around 128 DD. Besides our local aster leafhopper population we expect aster leafhoppers to migrate on the warm southerly winds from the United States. These leafhoppers often arrive before our local population emerges.

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.

Barley can be used to reduce wind erosion in onions and carrots. In onions, broadcast barley at a rate of 50 to 55 lbs/acre. In carrots use 45-50 lbs/acre. Seed the barley the same day you seed the crop. Treated barley seed is not necessary since barley smut is different from onion smut.

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.

Prowl can be applied to onion transplants once they are established, usually a good 10 days after transplant once the roots have begun to spread. Goal can also be applied once the transplants are established. 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 220-212 in pub. 75. Do not use Gesagard near the time of crop emergence or once the crop has emerged. 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.

In carrots Ridomil 1G is registered for damping off and cavity spot control. Apply the granular formulation in the seed furrow at a rate of 25Kg/ha or 215 g/100m of row. This material will not help control forking of carrots even though Pythium is believed to be one of the main causes of forking.

Celery transplant health is obviously very important, be sure to control fungus gnats in your greenhouse during transplant production, the larvae will damage the roots in the plug and if conditions are wet and cool in the field the larvae in those plugs will continue to damage the roots. Also check your transplants for possibly pea leaf minor damage before transplanting. Damage symptoms appear as stippling and mining on the leaves.