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VEGETABLE CROP UPDATE

VINE CROPS EDITION
June 22, 2007

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Downy Mildew Update:

According to Mary Hausbeck, the vegetable plant pathologist with Michigan State University, downy mildew was confirmed in an unsprayed field of cucumbers in northeastern Ohio on June 20th. Approximately 20% of the plants in the field are infected. No other fields in the immediate vicinity appear to have any downy mildew.

Obviously this is a concern to Ontario growers. The sunny, dry weather forecast is in our favour. The current weather front appears to be moving south of the great lakes towards Pennsylvania and the Eastern Seaboard. The long term forecast is not calling for precipitation until Wednesday. Never-the-less Ontario growers should stay proactive and be following a preventative control program using all of the available products (see Wednesday's crop update for a list of registered downy mildew fungicides.)

At this time we can still afford to be conservative (7-10 day intervals) with our sprays, but growers should watch the weather forecasts closely.

At this time we still have no confirmed cases of downy mildew in field cucurbits in Ontario.

TREAT IRRIGATIONS AND HEAVY DEWS AS YOU WOULD A RAIN EVENT AND APPLY PROTECTANT FUNGICIDES ACCORDINGLY.

The summer scouts are reporting low levels of angular leaf spot in all cucumbers and pumpkins. If this bacterial disease is present in your fields, a copper treatment (Copper 53W, Parasol or Copper Spray) will help reduce its spread.

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