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VEGETABLE CROP UPDATE

VINE CROPS EDITION

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Downy Mildew

More cases of downy mildew have been confirmed in the great lakes region over the past week, including several new cases in cucumber fields in Michigan. There has also been a confirmed case of downy mildew in a pumpkin field in central Illinois. While pumpkins are less susceptible to downy mildew than cucumbers, this serves as a reminder that all vine crop growers should be following a preventative fungicide program at this time.

Here in Ontario, we had a few new cases of downy mildew reported after the stretch of wet weather last week. For the most part the infections remain localized and the fungicide programs appear to be holding back the infection.

For cucumber growers we recommend a 5-7 day rotation using targeted downy mildew fungicides such as Tanos 50 DF (3-day PHI), Tattoo C (2-day PHI) and Ranman (1-day PHI). For pumpkin, squash and melon growers we recommend a 7-10 day rotation. Use the shorter interval if the field experiences heavy dews and periods of prolonged leaf wetness.

Keep in mind that Tanos and Ranman will only control downy mildew. Include a broad spectrum fungicide such as Bravo (1-day PHI) or mancozeb (14-day PHI) in the spray program where other foliar diseases (powdery mildew, gummy stem blight, alternaria, anthracnose etc...) are a concern.

Powdery Mildew

Powdery mildew was also found in vine crops last week. It normally arrives in Ontario in late-July or early-August. Pumpkins and squash are most susceptible, although other vine crops may also become infected. For successful control, fungicides must be applied at the first sign of infection.

The spray threshold is 1 infected leaf out of 50. Bravo and Cabrio are both good powdery mildew products.



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