



Tomecek Agronomy Services Inc.

December 15, 2025

To: Ontario Cucumber Research Committee (OCRC),

Re: Cucumber Downy Mildew Monitoring Program 2025 Final Report

Tomecek Agronomy monitored five hand-harvest cucumber fields in Chatham-Kent during the 2025 growing season for the presence of Downy Mildew (DM). Scouting commenced during the week of June 15-21 and continued for six weeks, concluding the week of July 20–26. The selected fields were located in Wallaceburg, Dresden, Chatham, Kent Bridge and Blenheim.

Scouting was conducted using a "W" walking pattern, with focused attention on low-lying areas and field edges near windbreaks or woodlots—areas prone to longer leaf wetness periods where Downy Mildew typically first appears. At each visit, the scout stopped at 20 locations per field and randomly inspected 10 leaves at each location. While the primary focus was identifying Downy Mildew symptoms, the scout also reported any additional field issues to the growers.

Downy Mildew was first observed on July 2nd (week #3) in one of the monitored fields. And then again later that week in another monitored field. In both instances, it was only at one site within each field, and with very low severity (less than 1% leaf area covered by lesions). Upon confirmation, all relevant parties were promptly notified, including the growers, the Ontario

Cucumber Research Committee, the Ontario Processing Vegetable Growers (OPVG), and OMAFRA Extension.

By the fourth week of scouting, Downy Mildew was observed in all five fields, with symptoms and severity increasing slightly (1–5% of leaf area affected). However, symptoms remained localized to specific hotspots within the fields. Severity remained stable for the balance of the season.

Thank you for allowing us to be part of this project. We would certainly be interested in participating again next year, and will submit a proposal for your consideration for the 2026 growing season.

Kind regards,

Joe Tomecek, CCA, 4RNMS

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