



Vermont Vegetable and Berry News February 3, 2016
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UPDATE FROM THE UVM PLANT DIAGNOSTIC CLINIC

Ann Hazelrigg

Here is a recap of my review of pests to look out this coming season, presented at the 2016 Vermont Vegetable and Berry Growers Annual Meeting.

Celery Anthracnose-New disease suspected in celery although a NY organic grower in the audience said he has seen it in his fields before.

http://msue.anr.msu.edu/news/celery_anthracnose_a_new_disease_for_michigan_growers. This fungus disease causes curled, cupped and twisted leaves and petioles and can lead to a heart rot. This can also resemble black heart which is caused by calcium imbalance.

<https://nevegetable.org/crops/physiological-disorders-0>. The curled and twisted leaves can also look like herbicide damage or like Aster Yellows virus. The fungus likes warm and moist conditions. If you suspect this disease, send us a sample for further testing.

hollow stems. Use good rotation and row covers. If you are spraying, be sure to set out traps to catch adult moths. Growers mentioned they had had good luck spraying 7-10 days after the adult flight.

Onion downy mildew-Saw a fair amount this summer. Likes cool moist weather in July and looks like fuzzy dirt on stems. Can defoliate and decrease bulb size. Overwinters in debris.

Basil downy mildew-Showed up in Burlington July 24. Looks like a nutrient deficiency. Eleanora is somewhat resistant but will eventually get the disease. Keep leaves dry and plants spaced well, but it seems like once it shows up, everyone gets it.

Late blight on potato- Found on potato on 2 farms in early July. Not much spread, so it must have come from seed. Late blight on tomato was not as devastating as in years past and took a while to spread around the state.

Phytophthora fruit rot-This was seen a couple of place on squash due to the wet June weather. I think most of our crops were safe because there was not much fruit out there early in the season to get infected by the soil borne fungus-like organism. It causes a yeasty mold and rapid meltdown of many crops.

Bottom rot and web blight seen on lettuce due to wet weather in June. Rain splashes spores onto leaves and they collapse.

Cucumber scab-prevalent on some farms due to wet weather, fogs. Fungicides can control this fungus disease but if it is wet it is hard to stay ahead of this problem. Use long rotations.
<https://ag.umass.edu/fact-sheets/cucurbits-scab>

Black rot crucifers-Still seeing a lot of this in kale and other crucifers. Get your seed hot water treated! <https://ag.umass.edu/fact-sheets/brassicac-black-rot>

Embellisea blotch on garlic-Mainly a cosmetic problem on first few wrapper leaves showing diffuse charcoal patches. May be unmarketable. Keep RH below 70%.
http://rvpadmin.cce.cornell.edu/pdf/weekly_update/pdf47_pdf.pdf

Fusarium basal rot garlic-Also prevalent. Caused by a soil borne fungus entering through basal plate. Can cause pinkish rot, scarring on cloves. Keep RH low and cull suspect seed. Garlic bulb mites may often be associated with these fungal disease issues and

White rot garlic-Very destructive. Look for small hard black sclerotia (like black mustard seeds) on cloves. Use LONG rotations and cull seed.

Fall/Winter spinach-seeing lots of Cladosporium fungus. This disease causes brown spotting on foliage. Keep plants dry and well-

- Mandatory record-keeping to improve states' ability to follow up on pesticide violations and enforce compliance. Records of application-specific pesticide information, as well as farmworker training, must be kept for two years.
- Requirement to provide more than one way for farmworkers and their representatives to gain access to pesticide application information and safety data sheets: centrally-posted, or by requesting records.

FACEBOOK RESOURCES FOR GROWERS

Check out the Facebook Four Season Farming and Winter Production group page

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/869847579741683/> This has great information and questions being asked for anyone involved with winter growing. Another is the Market Gardening Success group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/134018140298600/>

NOFA-VT WINTER CONFERENCE AT UVM