

Vermont Vegetable and Berry News

Please let me know if you are willing to be a SWD reporter. There are many places to buy sticky cards and hand lens, including: www.bugladyconsulting.com/shopping%20home.htm and <http://greenmethods.com/site/shop/buy-goods/#PYST3X5>.

SEEDCORN MAGGOT

Seedlings are more susceptible to seedcorn maggots during wet, cold spring weather that slows seed germination. The insect spends the winter as a larva in the soil, and adults emerge in April and May, mate, and lay eggs on moist soil high in organic matter or decaying vegetation. They resemble a small house fly, gray to brown, about 1/5 inch long. Eggs hatch in a few days and small, white, tapered maggots burrow into seeds and feed for 2 to 3 weeks before changing into brown pupae which do no damage. Adults emerge 1-2 weeks and begin a new cycle, resulting in 3 or more generations each year, but the first one does the most damage. You can monitor fly populations before planting by putting out yellow pails filled with soapy water along the field edges every 100 feet. Many insects are attracted to yellow and are trapped when they fall into the water. Empty pails every 4-6 days and refill with soapy water. Plow winter cover crops as early as possible in spring and thoroughly cover with floating row covers to keep out flies which are attracted to live, green organic matter incorporated into the soil. Note that maggot populations are generally higher after a legume is incorporated into the soil than a grass. Wait until the soil warms before planting and place seed shallow s in well-prepared beds to enhance quick germination. Planting during fly-free periods using the scouting method noted above can also decrease the likelihood of an infestation.

NRCS HIGH TUNNEL DEADLINE JUNE 1

The NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service) EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentives Program) includes a Seasonal High Tunnel Initiative. The sign up cutoff for funding for high tunnels is June 1, 2012. This is also the 0 1 3 160.46 2(fg7(f)-4(of5()-3(cd-4(a)9(nt T)-4(h)-4(e)/f3(M)-4(AG7)-3(l

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