

VEGETABLE CROPS HOTLINE

A newsletter for commercial vegetable growers prepared by the Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service

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No. 488
February 15, 2008

<<http://www.btny.purdue.edu/pubs/vegcrop>>

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WESTERN BEAN CUTWORM - (Rick Foster) - The western bean cutworm is a relatively new pest in Indiana, first observed in 2006. The larvae feed on the ears of sweet corn (Figure 1). Moths begin flying and laying eggs in late June and continue through early August. Eggs are laid in clusters of 20-200. Newly-hatched larvae feed on



Figure 1. Western bean cutworm larva. (Photo by John Obermeyer)



Figure 2. Western bean cutworm damage to corn. (Photo by John Obermeyer)

the tassel, corn pollen, behind the leaf sheaths, and silks. As the larvae get larger, they may feed on the ear tips or enter the ear through the side of the husk (Figure 2). When they reach maturity, they will chew their way out of the husk and overwinter in the soil.

Although the western bean cutworm has the potential to be a serious pest of sweet corn, so far the populations in Indiana are at least 100X lower than those of corn earworm. At least for now, we do not expect the western bean cutworm to be an important pest. Currently, the western bean cutworm is pretty much confined to the northwest corner of Indiana. The Purdue IPM Program is monitoring moth flights of this pest each year and should be able to determine if populations increase to a potentially serious level. Sweet corn growers who think they have a problem with western bean cutworms should contact their county Extension educator or me at <rfoster@purdue.edu>.

Like other ear-feeding caterpillars, western bean cutworms must be controlled before they enter the ear. Insecticides used for earworm control should be effective against western bean cutworm. Applications should be targeted at the late whorl - early silking stages for optimum control.

For more information on western bean cutworm, please visit <<http://ncipmc.org/alerts.wbc.cfm>>.



2008 MIDWEST VEGETABLE PRODUCTION GUIDE FOR COMMERCIAL GROWERS (ID-56) - (Dan Egel) - The new edition of this guide is now available. Included in the Guide is information about disease, insect and weed management, cultural practices and variety recommendations for crops from asparagus to zucchini. States covered by the guide are Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota and Missouri. The price is still a reasonable \$10 for a hard copy and free if one views the Internet copy at: <www.btny.purdue.edu/Pubs/ID/ID-56/>. To purchase a hard copy, call 1-800-EXT-INFO. Below find a copy of what's new in the 2008 guide.

New and Revised Sections

- A descriptive caption for the cover photograph has been added and appears on the inside front cover.
- The guide now includes information about organic practices when such alternatives are comparable to conventional pesticides. Look for the organic symbol throughout the guide. Growers should check with their certifying agencies before using any pesticide.

Cultural Practices

- Harvest methods for onions, leeks, and garlic have been added.

Disease Management

- Sorvan 50WDG® has been labeled for powdery mildew control on cucurbits.
- Several tables have been updated including Summary of Cultural Management Strategies for Disease on page 44 and Fungicide Resistance Management on page 48.
- Several new photographs have been added.
- PHI and REI information has been updated.

Weed Management

- Single ingredient and pre-mixed herbicides containing acetochlor labeled for sweet corn have been added. These products include: Surpass®, TopNotch®, FulTime®, and Keystone®. All of these products are restricted use pesticides.
- Norton® (ethofumesate) has been added for beets, carrots, dry bulb onions, and garlic.
- Outlook® (dimethenamid-P) has been added for leeks and green onions.
- Prowl H₂O® (pendimethalin) has been added for carrots, established peppermint and spearmint, peppers, and tomatoes on bare ground.

Insect Management

- Major label expansions are included for Actara®, Agri-Mek®, Avaunt®, Baythroid®, Capture®/Bri-gade®, Mustang®, Platinum®, and Proclaim®.
- Rimon 0.83EC® has been labeled for potatoes, sweet potatoes, and Brassica vegetables.
- Some insecticides have been eliminated from this edition because of their lack of efficacy or excessive levels of toxicity when acceptable alternatives were available.



NEW DISEASE MANAGEMENT BULLETINS - (Dan Egel) - Three vegetable disease extension bulletins have been revised and three new bulletins have made an appearance in 2008. See below for more information. All of these bulletins may be found at: <www.btny.purdue.edu/Pubs/#vegetables> or for a hard copy call Dan Egel at (812) 886-0198.

Bulletins that have been revised for 2008 are:

- Muskmelon and Watermelon Fungicide Guide for Indiana 2008/Management Time Line. BP-134-W.
- Pumpkin Fungicide Guide for Indiana 2008/Management Time Line. BP-135-W.
- Tomato Fungicide Guide for Indiana 2008/Management Time Line. BP-136-W.

Bulletins that are new for 2008 are:

- Downy Mildew of Pumpkin. BP-140-W
- Fusarium Wilt of Watermelon. BP-141-W
- Gummy Stem Blight of Muskmelon and Watermelon. BP-142-W



All of the new BP bulletins have color photographs, descriptions of the symptoms and disease management suggestions. BP-140-W, Downy Mildew of Pumpkins, is shown at the left.



INDIANA MARKETMAKER - (Maria Marshall and Jerry Nelson) - Welcome to MarketMaker, an interactive mapping system that locates businesses and markets of agricultural products in Indiana, providing an important link between producers and consumers. MarketMaker is a **powerful directory of state and regional food producers and buyers**. It is free to consumers, farmers, and businesses. All Indiana farmers and food business owners can register their operation, and consumers and other users can search for information any time. *MarketMaker is currently one of the most extensive collections of searchable food industry related data in the country.*

The Indiana MarketMaker website will be rich with demographic and business data that all users can query. They can view details summarized on a map to show concentrations of consumer markets and strategic

business partners. A map-based format for displaying information makes much more sense than business lists and statistical tables.

Census data is also available on the site. For example, a producer wanting to sell meat to Hispanic consumers can request a map showing the greatest concentration of upper-income Hispanic households, then request a complete demographic profile of those locations. As another example, a chef could locate purveyors of locally grown produce.

What is Indiana MarketMaker?

Indiana MarketMaker is a comprehensive, regional and statewide directory of food producers and buyers. Indiana is currently in the process of collecting data and registering producers, as the site will go live in March 2008. It will include producers and buyers at all levels of production, from farm to retail, and producers and buyers of both fresh and processed foods. Data is also accessible through a number of partner state websites that are currently online, including those from Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska, New York, Mississippi, and Kentucky.

Who should use Indiana MarketMaker?

- Direct sellers researching buyers
- Buyers looking for specific products from farmers
- Traders on the Internet
- On-farm retailers
- Farmers selling to restaurants
- Farmers selling to food processors
- Farmers looking for other farmers to partner with
- Restaurant chefs looking for product
- Institutional buyers looking for local product
- Farmers selling speciality processed foods
- Community Supported Agriculture
- U-pick operations

What can I use Indiana MarketMaker to do?

- Research customer demographics – income, ethnicity, household characteristics, education
- Search for specific business records
- Use contact information to reach specific buyers
- Find numerous area market contacts
- Network with restaurants, on-farm retailers, and specialty processors

How do I register with Indiana MarketMaker?

We are in the process of populating Indiana MarketMaker with data at the buyer and producer level. If you are interested in registering your business, click on the registration links below, and complete the online registration. If you would prefer to submit your registration by mail, download the producer registration form at <[https://www.agecon.purdue.edu/cab/inmarketmaker/producer registration.doc](https://www.agecon.purdue.edu/cab/inmarketmaker/producer%20registration.doc)> and the winery registration at <<https://www.agecon.purdue.edu/cab/inmarketmaker/wineryregistration.doc>> and submit to Maria Marshall at the address listed on the form.



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VEGETABLE GROWER'S MEETING - Friday, February 29, 2008, Emanuel Fisher Farm, 1649 North 550 East, Rockville, IN 47872, 1 - 3 pm.

Presenters:

- Dan Egel
- Rick Foster
- Liz Maynard
- Mark Spelbring.

Topics:

- Vegetable Production
- Pest Management
- Regulatory Topic

Private Applicator Recertification Credit (**PARP**) will be available by attending this meeting. There is a \$10 fee due the day of the meeting for PARP credit.

For more information, contact Mark Spelbring, Parke County Extension Director at (765) 569-3176 or <spelbrin@purdue.edu>.



VEGETABLE GROWER'S MEETING - Saturday, March 1, 2008, Wakarusa Produce Auction, 65460 CR 9, Goshen, IN 46526, 11 am - 2 pm.

Topics and Presenters:

- "Tips for Successful Weed Management" - Liz Maynard, Purdue Extension Specialist, Vegetable Crops and Floriculture
- "Growing Healthy Plants in the Greenhouse" - Liz Maynard, Purdue Extension Specialist, Vegetable Crops and Floriculture
- "Incorporating Resistant Varieties into a Vegetable Disease Management Plant" - Dan Egel, Purdue Extension Specialist, Plant Pathology

- "Clean Sweep Pesticide Disposal" - (PARP regulatory topic) - Andrew Westfall, Purdue Extension Educator, ANR, Elkhart County

Private Applicator Recertification Credit (PARP) will be available by attending this meeting. There is a \$10 fee due the day of the meeting for PARP credit.

Drinks and snacks provided. **NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED.**

For further information, please contact the Elkhart County Extension office at (574) 533-0554.



VEGETABLE GROWERS MEETING - Tuesday, March 4, 2008, Kuhlman Building at the Wayne County Fairgrounds, 9 am - Noon.

Topics and speakers:

- Protecting the Water Supply-Wellhead Contamination - Stacy Herr, Extension Educator Wayne County
- Insect Control in Sweet Corn - Rick Foster, Purdue Entomologist
- Weed Control in Cucurbits - Liz Maynard, Purdue Extension Specialist, Commercial Vegetables
- Fungicides & Pumpkins - Dan Egel, Purdue Extension Plant Pathologist

Breakfast refreshments provided.

Reservations requested by February 29th.

PARP credit available - Please bring \$10 fee and applicator number. Must be present for entire program to receive credit.



For more information please contact the Wayne County Extension Office, 401 East Main Street, Richmond, IN 47374, (765) 973-9281 or <www.ces.edu/ces/Wayne>.



MARCH 07, 2008 - Southwest Indiana Melon and Vegetable Growers Annual Meeting-Quality Inn, 602 Wheatland Rd., Vincennes, Indiana. This is the annual meeting of this organization. The cost to join is \$5 renewable annually. This cost will get you in the front door and includes lunch. Registration is from 8:30 to 9:15 am. The main topic of the morning concerns labor. At approximately 12:50 pm, a PARP program will begin with updates about pests of watermelon and muskmelon. The cost for those wanting PARP credit will be \$10. There will be 2 CCH points awarded. Fred Whitford of Purdue University will speak about the Clean Sweep program and Polytank Breaking. The 2007 Illiana Watermelon Queen will speak at about 3:30 pm. Copies of the *Midwest Vegetable Production Guide for Commercial Growers-2008* will be available for purchase. Please contact Dan Egel at (812) 886-0198 for more details.



ILLIANA WATERMELON ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING, Friday and Saturday, March 7th & 8th, 2008, at the Quality Inn, 600 Old Wheatland Road, Vincennes, IN 47591. For more information, contact: Carrie Smith at (812) 882-4415.

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