

# VEGETABLE CROPS HOTLINE

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

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No. 513  
August 28, 2009

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

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**PLECTOSPORIUM BLIGHT ON PUMPKIN** - (Dan Egel) - I have observed a pumpkin field with this disease recently. Although the occurrence of Plectosporium blight is sporadic, when it occurs, it can cause yield loss due to the symptoms that can be observed on the pumpkin fruit. Older literature may list this disease as Microdochium blight.

Plectosporium blight can be recognized from the light tan lesions on stems, leaf petioles (Figure 1) and pumpkin fruit (Figure 2). These lesions are often spindle shaped. The occurrence of these lesions on the pumpkin fruit can reduce the marketability of the produce.

This disease may be managed through a combination of cultural and fungicide treatments. Crop rotations of 3-4 years and fall-tillage will help keep the crop residue to a minimum. A regular contact fungicide program will also help to keep Plectosporium blight in check.



**Figure 1:** Light tan lesion of Plectosporium blight can be seen on the petiole of this pumpkin leaf. (Photo by Dan Egel)



**Figure 2:** Lesions of Plectosporium blight on pumpkin can cause the fruit to be unmarketable. (Photo by Dan Egel)



**LABEL EXPANSION** - (Dan Egel) - The Actigard label has been expanded. Syngenta describes Actigard as a "selective, systemic compound" which "induces plant resistance". New uses of Actigard include several diseases of cucurbits including bacterial leaf spot and downy mildew, bacterial speck and spot of chili peppers and downy mildew of lettuce. Old uses included downy mildew and black rot of cole crops, downy mildew and white rust on spinach, bacterial spot and speck of tomato. Although it is late in the season for this new label to influence crops this season, some growers might be interested in exploring some of these new uses next season.

Of the old uses listed above, the use of Actigard for bacterial spot of tomatoes was of most interest to Indiana growers. Data from several university studies supports such use. I hope to learn more about Actigard and some of these new uses.

I am hesitant to recommend Actigard for use on cucurbits at this time. Studies I have been involved in have shown some loss of yield and fruit size from the use of Actigard with muskmelon. Growers interested in using Actigard on cucurbits might be wise to test this product on a portion of their crop and restrict the number of



applications. I would be glad to talk with individuals interested in this new product.

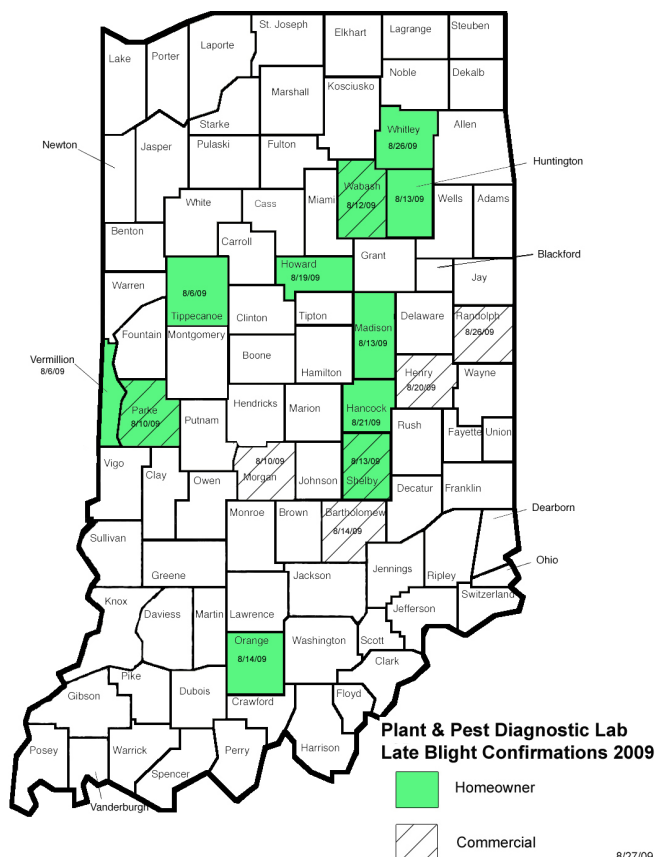
Interested individuals can find the new Actigard label at this link: <<http://state.ceris.purdue.edu/html/in.htm>> or call me for help.



**LATE BLIGHT OF TOMATO UPDATE - (Gail Ruhl and Dan Egel)** - On August 6, the Plant and Pest Diagnostic Laboratory (P&PDL) microscopically confirmed late blight of tomato in Indiana. An article on late blight including symptom descriptions and management recommendations was published in Issue 512 of this newsletter. This article and accompanying map are an update of this important disease. To date, 15 counties have been confirmed to have late blight of tomato in either homeowner or commercial plantings or both (Figure 1). A sample from at least one new county is pending.

Tomato growers should scout their fields for symptoms of late blight (Figure 2) and send suspect samples to the P&PDL. All commercial growers should assume that spores from the late blight fungus will arrive in their field and apply protective fungicides as appropriate (see Issue 512 of the *Vegetable Crops Hotline*).

Additional information about late blight of tomato can be found at the following link at the P&PDL website <[www.ppd.purdue.edu/PPDL/hot09/8-6.html](http://www.ppd.purdue.edu/PPDL/hot09/8-6.html)>.



**Figure 1:** A map of Indiana counties confirmed to have late blight of tomato as of 27 August 2009.

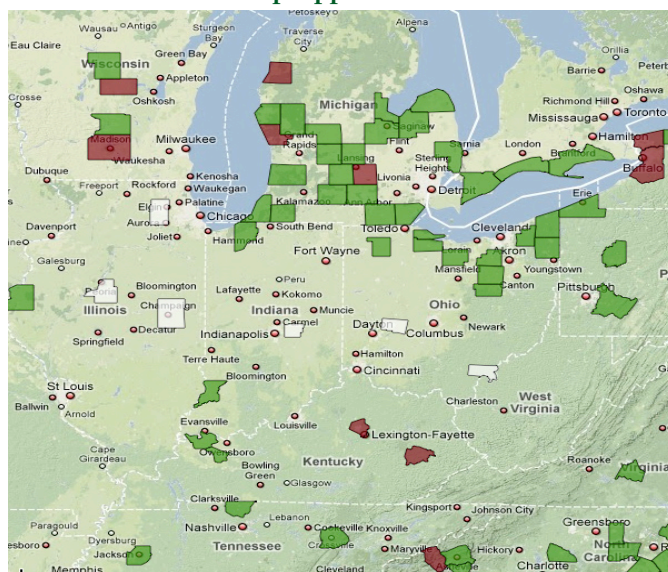


**Figure 2:** A tomato leaf from a commercial field in Indiana with late blight. Note the white fungal growth at the edge of the lesion. (Photo by Dan Egel)



**DOWNY MILDEW UPDATE - (Dan Egel)** - This disease has been observed on cucumber in Knox and LaPorte Counties of Indiana. Figure 1 shows the progress of this disease across Indiana and the Midwest. It appears at this time that the strain that is in Indiana does not affect pumpkins or watermelon. A new strain that does affect these crops could blow in at anytime, however. Issue 509 of the *Vegetable Crops Hotline* has more complete information on downy mildew of cucurbits.

Cucurbit growers may want to consult the following website to follow this disease and learn more about it <[www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/pp/cucurbit/](http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/pp/cucurbit/)>.



**Figure 1:** Areas of the Eastern US that have reported downy mildew of cucurbits as of 27 August. Areas in red have had downy mildew reported in the last 7 days; areas in green have had the downy mildew reported more than 7 days ago.



*Vegetable Farmers and Market Gardeners Are Invited to Twilight Meetings at  
Pinney-Purdue Ag Center, Wanatah, IN:*

## **Tomato Plot Open House**

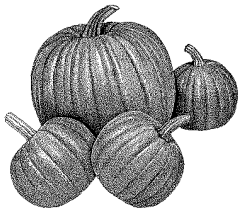
**Thursday, September 3, 2009**

**6:00 – 7:30 p.m.** Central Daylight Time



**Join us for a wagon tour of tomato trials with time to take a close look at production methods and varieties. Trials include:**

- **Tomato Cropping Systems**
  - **Organic and Non-organic**
  - **Plastic Mulch and Straw Mulch**
  - **Strip-tilled Clover ‘Living Mulch’**
- **Ten Heirloom Tomato Varieties**



## **Pumpkin Twilight Meeting**

**Thursday, September 17, 2009**

**6:00 – 7:30 p.m.** Central Daylight Time

**Join us for a wagon and walking tour of pumpkin plots to compare variety performance with and without treatment for powdery mildew.**

Purdue Extension Specialists Dan Egel and Liz Maynard will discuss disease management, variety highlights, and production methods.

**Directions:** Pinney-Purdue Ag Center is at 11402 S. County Line Rd., Wanatah, IN. This is 5-1/2 miles East of Valparaiso or 1 mile West of Wanatah on US Highway 30, then North 1/2 mile on Porter/LaPorte County Line Road.

- ❖ If you have a disability that requires assistance for your participation in either event, please call 219-785-5674 at least 3 days prior to the event.
- ❖ Sponsored by *Northwest Indiana Commercial Horticulture Program – Purdue University Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture, Purdue Agricultural Research Programs – Purdue Ag Centers, and Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service*

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**1-888-EXT-INFO**

**USDA IMPLEMENTS FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOAN PROGRAM** - Julia A. Wickard, Indiana State Executive Director of USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) announced that changes to the Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program have been implemented in accordance with the 2008 Farm Bill.

The FSFL Program provides low-interest financing for producers of eligible commodities to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities. The maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are required to provide a down payment of 15 percent, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment. Loan terms of seven, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the Treasury Department.

Payments are available in the form of a partial disbursement and the remaining final disbursement. The partial disbursement will be available after a portion of the construction has been completed. The final fund disbursement will be made when all construction is completed. The maximum amount of the partial disbursement will be 50 percent of the projected and approved total loan amount.

For more information about FSFL or other FSA price support program, please visit your FSA county office or <[www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)>.

Several commodities are eligible for farm storage loans including cold storage facilities for fruits (including nuts) and vegetables.



**CUCURBIT DOWNY MILDEW ipmPIPE SURVEY** - (Wendy Britton, North Carolina State University) - This is a reminder to everyone about the site survey for the Cucurbit Downy Mildew ipmPIPE. The survey can be found at the following website, <[www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/pp/cucurbit/](http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/pp/cucurbit/)>, by clicking on the "Please help us improve our Website" link on the top of the main page as well as on the top of the interactive map page.

We currently have 20 results from the survey and it would be extremely beneficial to have more. There will also be an "end of season" survey posted soon.



**Fulton County Vegetable Crops Meeting**, November 25, 2009, 1:00PM at the Fulton County Fairgrounds, Rochester, IN. Contact Mark Kepler [mkepler@purdue.edu](mailto:mkepler@purdue.edu) or (574) 223-3397.



**Illiana Vegetable Growers School**, Tuesday, January 5, 2010, Teibel's Restaurant, Schererville, Indiana. Program available in December. For more information (219) 785-5673 or [emaynard@purdue.edu](mailto:emaynard@purdue.edu).



**Indiana Horticultural Congress**, January 19-21, 2010, Windham Hotel, Indianapolis, Indiana. For more information <[www.inhortcongress.org](http://www.inhortcongress.org)>.

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