

VEGETABLE CROPS HOTLINE

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

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No. 530
September 24, 2010

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

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SCURF OF SWEET POTATO - (Dan Egel) - This disease is also known as soil stain, black skin, mottle and rust. Symptoms only appear on underground plant parts. The discolored areas appear dark brown, gray or even black on the sweet potato tuber (Figure 1). Although the discoloration is superficial and seldom affects the interior of the tuber, infection allows excess moisture



Figure 1: Symptoms of scurf on sweet potato include gray to dark brown areas on the surface of the tuber. Affected tubers may have shortened storage life. (Photo by Dan Egel)

loss. Thus, affected tubers may shrivel and crack resulting in decay of tubers. Tubers with scurf may not be marketable.

The fungus that causes scurf overwinters on diseased tubers and related plant debris. Healthy sweet potato tubers that come into contact with diseased tubers may become infected. Scurf may reappear the following season when diseased tubers are used as seed tubers. The fungus that causes scurf may be carried on sprouts that are carried to the field as transplants. Healthy tubers grown from healthy sprouts may become diseased from soil borne fungal spores.

The use of healthy tubers or sprouts grown from healthy tubers is the most important control measure. Use only seed lots of tubers free from scurf symptoms. If sprouts are grown in bedding or field soil, this soil should be steamed to make it free of the scurf fungus. Crop rotations of 2 to 3 years in light soil and 3 to 4 years in heavy soil will help to reduce the inoculum of the soil scurf pathogen. Some varieties appear to be more susceptible to scurf than others. Tubers dipped in the fungicide with the active ingredient thiabendazole may have reduced symptoms (see the *Midwest Vegetable Production Guide for Commercial Growers 2010* <<http://www.btny.purdue.edu/Pubs/ID/ID-56/>>).



SUPPLEMENTAL REVENUE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM - Julia A. Wickard, Executive Director for USDA's Farm Service Agency in Indiana announced that producers have until September 30, 2010 to apply for benefits on 2008 crop year disasters through their local FSA Office. Producers who carry crop insurance on all insurable crops and Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage on crops without insurance available should review their 2008 records to see if they might be eligible for SURE payments. One primary requirement of SURE was met in all counties in Indiana for 2008 - that is every county was either declared a disaster by the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture or is contiguous to a county that was declared a secretarial disaster. Additional information regarding the SURE program is located at <<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/sure>>, or producers may contact their local county FSA office.

HIGH TUNNEL WEBINAR - A webinar series on high tunnels and other season extension practices is scheduled for November (see Table 1). The 1 to 2 hour webinars may be viewed from homes or businesses over broadband internet connection. Some Extension offices may also host a viewing site for one or more webinars. Preregistration for the series is required. To register, visit <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/season_ext>. A single registration fee of \$30 covers attendance at one or all webinars. Those interested in viewing the series at an Extension site should also preregister. A list of hosted viewing sites will be provided to all registrants. The series is sponsored by the Great Lakes Vegetable Working Group, the University of Illinois Extension and a Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Professional Development Grant. Please visit the Great Lakes Vegetable Working Group website at <<http://glvwg.ag.ohio-state.edu/index.php>>, and click on *Projects* at the top of the page to find detailed program information and a pre-registration link for this webinar series.



FOOD SAFETY PROGRAM - This course offered by the Department of Food Science at Purdue provides instruction for developing Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) programs for the meat/poultry/egg and fruit/vegetable industries. The 2 ½ day workshop

on October 11-12, 2010, focuses on providing the participant with a better understanding of how to develop and implement food safety management programs through HACCP, and prerequisite programs including: Good Manufacturing Practices (GMPs), Sanitation Standard Operating Procedures (SSOPs), Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs), Best Management Practices for Animal Production, as well as general hygiene and sanitation practices. This workshop will include an overview of foodborne hazards and prevention strategies, an understanding of HACCP principles, and an awareness of the regulatory requirements for HACCP programs. A customized tract will be offered for meat/poultry/egg industry participants and another tract for participants representing the fruit/vegetable industry. This workshop is well suited as an introductory course for first time participants and as a good update for participants that have already had HACCP training. The instructor team has been working together for more than 10 years. Collectively, they offer a wide range of expertise and have experience in working with different types of food manufacturers. The cost of the program is \$375.00. The registration deadline is Oct. 1. For further information about the program, please contact Kiya Smith at 765-496-3827, kiya@purdue.edu, or Dr. Richard Linton at 765-494-6481, rlinton@purdue.edu. For additional details and registration form, see the brochure at <http://www.ag.purdue.edu/foodsci/Documents/workshops/haccp_brochure.pdf>.

Table 1: Season Extension and High Tunnel Webinar Series

Date	Time	Topic	Speakers
Nov. 1	6:30-8:30 pm EST (5:30-7:30 pm CST)	Introduction to Pest Management for Season Extension	Bill Lamont, Penn State; Judson Reid and Meg McGrath, Cornell University; Brad Bergefurd; The Ohio State University
Nov. 3	6:30-8:30 pm EST (5:30-7:30 pm CST)	Pest Management for Tomatoes in High Tunnels	Matt Kleinhenz, The Ohio State University; Shubin Saha, Purdue University; Sally Miller, The Ohio State University
Nov. 8	6:30-8:30 pm EST (5:30-7:30 pm CST)	Pest Management in Winter Crops	Adam Montri, Michigan State University; Judson Reid, Cornell University; Ann Hazelrigg, University of Vermont; Matt Kleinhenz, The Ohio State University
Nov. 16	1-2 pm EST (noon-1 pm CST)	Management of Nutrients, Water, Soil, and Other Production Considerations in High Tunnels	Mike Orzolek, Pennsylvania State University
Nov. 18	1-2 pm EST (noon-1 pm CST)	Interpreting NRCS High Tunnel Project Guidelines	Ruth Book, Ivan Dozier, and Brett Roberts, NRCS in Illinois



MELON AND VEGETABLE GROWERS ASSOCIATION MEETING - A meeting will be held on December 1st at the Southwest Purdue Agricultural Center in Vincennes at approximately 6 p.m. to discuss this year's muskmelon and watermelon variety trials. An additional topic of discussion at the meeting will be the timing and location of next year's winter meeting of the Association. Watch the *Hotline* for more information or call Shubin Saha at 812-886-0198.



NATIONAL SMALL FARM TRADE SHOW & CONFERENCE - This will be held in Columbia, Missouri at the Boone County Fairgrounds on November 4-6, 2010. There will be many exhibitors, seminars, a Farmers' Forum, demonstrations and much more. Seminar topics include cattle and grazing, poultry and pork, tomato grafting, IPM, cinder block raised gardens, raw milk for pasture fertilization, alternative field crops, herbs, high tunnels, ethnic vegetables, exotic pests on Missouri trees. Farmers' Forum topics include, bees, agroforestry, composting, youth, turkeys, sustainable ag, pastured poultry, multispecies grazing, locovores, marketing, CSAs, organics, regional food systems, goats, waterfowl as weeders, miscanthus, cheese, value-added products, freshwater shrimp, and elderberries. Register by October 15th to save on admission price (\$8/day, \$12/days, \$15/3 days by Oct. 15). For more information or to register, please call 1-800-633-2535 or <<http://www.smallfarmtoday.com>>.



REVISED EXTENSION BULLETINS - (*Dan Egel*) - Two extension bulletins from the Department of Botany and Plant Pathology have been revised to reflect new information. These publications are described below and thumbnail photos are included as well (Figure 1).

- **Gummy Stem Blight of Muskmelon and Watermelon (BP-142)** - This publication describes the disease cycle, symptoms and control of this important disease. The publication has been updated to include a new photograph and new information about fungicide resistance in the fungus that causes gummy stem blight.

- **Mature Watermelon Vine Decline and Similar Vine Decline Diseases of Cucurbits (BP-65)** - This publication describes this disease and possible control measures. The publication has been updated to include information about new photographs and recent information from Purdue University field and greenhouse studies. These publications are available on the Internet at <<http://www.ag.purdue.edu/btny/Extension/Pages/VegetablePathology.aspx>>, from your local County Educator or call 812-886-0198.



Figure 1: Thumbnail photographs of two updated extension bulletins available from Purdue University.



MEETING DATES:

January 4, 2011 Illiana Vegetable Growers' School, Schererville, Indiana contact: Liz Maynard, 219-531-4200, emaynard@purdue.edu.

January 18-20, 2011 Indiana Horticultural Congress, Indianapolis, Indiana contact: Tammy Goodale, 765-494-1296, tgoodale@purdue.edu.



NEXT HOTLINE ISSUE: - This issue of the *Vegetable Crops Hotline* will be the last one you receive until the first week of November. The *Vegetable Crops Hotlines* for the 2011 season will resume in February.