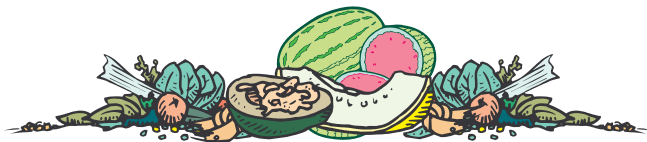


VEGETABLE CROPS HOTLINE

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

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DIANA LANGE - (Randy Woodson) - We were saddened to learn of the recent death of Dr. Diana Lange following a yearlong struggle with cancer. Diana was a valued member of the Purdue University Southwestern Purdue Agriculture Program from 1995 to 1997. During this time, Diana served as the regional vegetable specialist in the Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture. Diana left Purdue to pursue a career in research on fresh produce packaging in California. Diana is survived by her husband, Dr. Nathan Lange.

HOTLINE CHANGES - (Dan Egel) - There will be a couple of changes to the 2001 version of the *Vegetable Crops Hotline*.

Our accountants tell us the *Hotline* has been running in the red. To rectify this situation, the price of a subscription will increase from \$12 to \$15 for those folks who are not members of the Indiana Vegetable Growers Association (IVGA). IVGA members will continue to receive the *Hotline* as a benefit of membership, and the cost to IVGA for member subscriptions will increase from \$10 to \$13. If you wish to access the free electronic version regularly and want to be notified when the new issue has been posted, contact Dan Egel at egel@purdue.edu.

Now the good news. An extra service will be added for *Hotline* subscribers. In the past, subscribers have had to wait for biweekly *Hotline* issues to read about the latest update. If a Purdue Specialist observed a pest immediately after a *Hotline* issue had been sent out, it would be two weeks until the news would reach our subscribers. Starting in 2001, the system will

work as follows. Regularly scheduled *Hotline* issues will be sent out just as in the past. However, growers may opt to also receive special *Hotline-BULLETINS*, either by e-mail or FAX. These bulletins will allow specialists to get information to growers in a more timely manner. When the regularly scheduled issue is posted on the web and sent out to subscribers, each issue will contain whatever *BULLETINS* may have been sent out in the previous two weeks as well as additional articles our staff submits. This will require that subscribers to the 2001 *Hotline* indicate whether they want e-mail or FAX updates.

Please address any questions or comments to Dan Egel at (812) 886-0198 or the e-mail address given above.

QUADRIS LABEL CHANGE - (Dan Egel) - Zeneca Ag Products issued a supplemental label for the fungicide Quadris in October. The primary label changes are to add several vegetable groups to the label including bulb vegetables, carrots, celery, leafy vegetables and vegetables (leaves of root and tuber group). Note that the re-entry interval is 4 hours for Quadris. Please read the label carefully for crops included, rates, schedules, and post-harvest intervals.

DOWNY MILDEW ON GREENS - (Dan Egel) - Downy mildew was observed late this summer in northern Indiana on turnip greens and mustard. The first symptoms a grower will likely notice are yellow lesions on leaves. During cool, wet weather, a white mildew may be observed on the underside of leaves opposite the yellow lesions. The yellow lesions will eventually turn a light brown and become papery.

Control of downy mildew requires a combination of cultural and chemical remedies. Use tillage to bury the residue as soon as possible after harvest. The longer plants remain in the field, the more downy mildew spores will be produced, threatening the produc-

tion of greens in nearby areas. Rotate to unrelated crops for 2 years before returning to mustard or turnip. Since weeds in the cruciferous plant family may also get downy mildew, weed control is part of the disease management strategy. In addition, control volunteer plants that may serve as hosts for downy mildew. Grow greens in well-drained soils.

Few chemicals are labeled for use on these crops. Check the label carefully to make certain that downy mildew is listed on the crop you are growing. For example, fosetyl-AL (e.g., Aliette) is labeled for downy mildew on turnip greens, but not for mustard. Copper sulfate products may be used on mustard. More details will be listed in the **2001 Midwest Vegetable Production Guide for Commercial Growers (ID-56)** <<http://www.entm.purdue.edu/Entomology/ext/targets/ID/index.htm>>.

WATERMELON DISEASE UPDATE - (Dan Egel) - In August, Lt. Gov. Joe Kernan visited watermelon fields in Knox County where the disease known as mature watermelon vine decline (MWVD) has occurred. This disease, formerly known as "sudden wilt", has plagued watermelon growers in southwestern Indiana for several years. Over the last two seasons, MWVD has been particularly severe. A major symptom associated with MWVD is wilting vines that occur as the plants approach maturity. Roots of affected plants are discolored and rotten.

As a result of the Lt. Gov.'s visit, the Office of the Commissioner of Agriculture and the Purdue University School of Agriculture have pledged \$127,000 in grants to help determine the cause and management practices for MWVD. Several individuals from the Department of Botany and Plant Pathology at Purdue are involved in the effort including Dr. Dan Egel, IPM Specialist at the Southwest Purdue Agriculture Center, Ray Martyn and Rick Latin, Professors of Plant Pathology and Karen Rane, Plant Disease Diagnostician.

In addition, a post-doctoral researcher has been hired to assist



with the investigation. He will start in January and devote full-time effort to MWVD. He will be stationed at the Southwest Purdue Agriculture Center.

Those interested in learning more about MWVD should attend the Hort Congress in January in Indianapolis.

In a related development, language was inserted into the Agriculture Appropriation Bill (HR 4461) that was recently signed into law that may provide relief for watermelon growers who have realized disease loss due to MWVD.



TAX DEDUCTIBLE GIFTS TO PURDUE'S VEGETABLE RESEARCH AND EXTENSION FUND - (Liz Maynard) - The Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture at Purdue University has set up a gift account to support Commercial Vegetable Crop Applied Research and Extension. The funds from this account will be used to support Purdue programs related to all aspects of vegetable production in Indiana. The Indiana Vegetable Growers Association supports the establishment of this fund.

Contributions can be made payable to Purdue Research Foundation and sent to: Vegetable Research/Extension Fund, Dept. of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture, Purdue University, 1165 HORT, W. Lafayette, IN 47907. On your check memo line, please indicate for fund 703-1165-0003.

Indiana citizens can receive a 50% tax credit for direct contribution to an in-state university up to a maximum gift of \$400 if filing a joint return or \$200 if filing an individual return. The tax credit directly reduces the bottom line of your state income tax, either reducing the amount you owe in taxes or increasing the refund you will receive. If you work for a company that participates in the Matching Gift Program, you may double (or more) the value of your gift. Look for form CC 40, or check with your accountant.

For more information on gift giving, contact the Purdue Research Foundation (PRF), Purdue University, W. Lafayette, IN 47907, for information on the Annual Giving and Matching Gift Program. PRF will send a brochure that explains all the options for contribution and tax credit.



CALL FOR DONATIONS TO SILENT AUCTION AT HORT CONGRESS - (Liz Maynard) - The annual Silent Auction to benefit the Fruit and Vegetable Applied Research and Extension Funds will be held at the 2001 Indiana Hort Congress. Last year's successful auction was due to donations from growers, tradespeople, and Purdue staff. Items auctioned in past years have included apple trees,

artwork, pesticides, and much more. Do you have an item or a service to donate this year? Contact Liz Maynard at 219-785-5673.



DOWNY MILDEW OF PUMPKIN - (Dan Egel) - Downy mildew was observed in northern Indiana late in the pumpkin season. This disease can be severe on all cucurbits (cucumber, muskmelon, pumpkin, watermelon, squash, etc.). However, downy mildew is an infrequent visitor to Indiana since the fungus that causes downy mildew does not over-winter here. Spores of the downy mildew fungus can only survive the winter in a warm climate where cucurbits are grown year round. Therefore downy mildew is only a problem in Indiana when the spores are blown up north, usually in late summer and early fall. Pumpkins are usually the target since they are grown during this time period.

Downy mildew is primarily a leaf disease. Often, the first symptoms one observes are yellow, angular or square looking spots on leaves. The underside of the leaves may be covered with a black fuzzy looking growth. This is the fungus that causes the disease. Leaves may eventually, turn brown and crinkle. The leaves may turn upwards as they dry. Severe outbreaks may result in the rapid death of vines, which in turn may cause handles on pumpkins to become brown.

Downy mildew requires a period of leaf wetness and high humidity for successful infection. Heavy dews can provide adequate moisture to get this disease going. Although the fungal spores may land in your field, there has to be leaf wetness for the disease to cause problems.

Any cultural practice that allows good aeration between leaves can lessen the impact of downy mildew. An example would be wider spacing between plants in areas that are prone to downy mildew problems. Although some resistance is present in cucumbers and melons, there is no resistance among pumpkins and squashes. There are fungicides that can be used to help control downy mildew. Among the possible fungicides are: Aliette, Ridomil Bravo Gold, Quadris and maneb type products. Be sure to read the label carefully to see which product is labeled for your crop.



UPCOMING MEETINGS

- **Jan. 4, 2001** - Illiana Vegetable Growers School, Teibel's Restaurant, Schererville, Indiana. Contact: Liz Maynard 219-785-5673
- **Jan. 29-31, 2001** - Indiana Horticultural Congress, Adam's Mark Hotel, Indianapolis, Indiana. Contact: Mario Morales, 765-494-1306 or Liz Maynard 219-785-5673.

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