

The University of Maryland Extension Agriculture and Natural Resources Profitability Impact Team proudly presents this bi-weekly publication for the commercial vegetable and fruit industry.

ALERT! ALERT! ALERT! ALERT! August 22, 2012

Watermelon Downy Mildew Alert!

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Downy mildew on watermelon was confirmed in Wicomico County, MD today. When downy mildew is present, watermelon growers need to modify their spray programs because the materials that are typically used for managing more common diseases are not effective on downy mildew. Growers should add additional materials to their spray program. Do not delay sprays because preventative applications are much more effective than applications made after disease is detected. Sprays should be applied on a 7-day schedule. Remember that materials with different Modes of Action (FRAC groups) should be alternated.

The following products have been effective on cucurbit downy mildew in our area. They should be tank-mixed with a protectant fungicide such as chlorothalonil:

- Ranman (2.10 to 2.75 fl oz. 400SC/A, see label for details, do not apply with copper);
- Presidio at 3.0 to 4.0 fl oz 4SC/A
- Previcur Flex at 1.2 pt 6F/A

Other materials for that are good when used in a tank mix or in alternation are:

- Tanos at 8.0 oz 50DF/A
- Gavel at 1.5 to 2.0 lb 75DF/A (Gavel contains mancozeb, which is a protectant, and does not need a tank-mix partner)
- Curzate at 3.2 oz 60DF/A

Alternatively Presidio may be applied through drip irrigation. See label for additional details and application information. Consult the [Commercial Vegetable Production Recommendations](#) for further information on resistance management and available fungicides.

Late Blight on Tomato Confirmed in Baltimore County, MD

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Late blight on tomato is now confirmed in Maryland (Baltimore County). We do not yet know what strain or genotype it is. Until additional information is available, growers should assume that both tomatoes and potatoes are at risk. The pathogen is very aggressive and can complete its life cycle and sporulate in as little as 7 days. Tomato growers should scout their crop aggressively and modify their spray program. Conventional growers should add translaminar fungicides, which can move into and through leaves are more effective than a protectant only program. The following are some fungicides that have performed well on tomato in our region. Growers should apply them with a protectant and rotate among them based on rotation of products that are in a different FRAC grouping.

- Curzate–3.2 to 5.0 oz 60DF/A
- Forum–6.0 fl oz 4.18SC/A
- Presidio–3.0 to 4.0 fl oz 4SC/A
- Previcur Flex–1.5 pt 6F/A
- Ranman–2.10 to 2.75 fl oz 400SC/A
- Reason–5.5 to 8.2 fl oz 500SC/A
- Revus Top–5.5 to 7.0 fl oz 4.16SC/A
- Tanos–8.0 oz 50WG/A

The best option for organic growers is an OMRI approved copper product. While research results indicate that copper is the best available option in organic production, remember that it is a protectant. That means it must be present on tissue to work. Keep protecting plants with repeated applications as new tissue forms.

Different products are available on potato. Please refer to Maryland, Extension Bulletin 236 for additional information.

Because this disease can spread rapidly by air, advise home gardeners with infected plants to use fungicides – or to kill their plants and bag them or place them under a tarp. This will avoid allowing the spores to spread to neighboring farms.

Vegetable & Fruit Headline News Alert

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Commercial 2012 Vegetable Production Recommendations Maryland EB 236



On-Line at:

<http://www.mdvegetables.umd.edu/files/Maryland%20complete%20book%202012.pdf>

Also available in a new very interactive format at the Delaware Extension site at:

<http://ag.udel.edu/extension/vegprogram/publications.htm#vegrecs>

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