

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

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Special Alert # 3: Confirmed Downy Mildew on Watermelon

Confirmed Downy Mildew on Watermelon in Wicomico County, MD

By Kate Everts, Vegetable Pathologist,
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Watermelon downy mildew was confirmed in Wicomico County, MD on Aug 13, 2014. All watermelon crops in Maryland and Delaware, which will continue to be picked, should be protected with a downy mildew specific fungicide at this time. Downy mildew on watermelon looks different than downy mildew of other cucurbits (see Fig. 1.). This disease cannot overwinter here and must be reintroduced every year. This year has been very conducive to downy mildew, and our recent rain will increase disease.

Downy mildew is managed best with fungicides that are targeted for downy mildew. Targeted sprays that are applied on a 7-day schedule will be most effective in managing the diseases. The following are effective fungicides when applied with a protectant fungicide such as chlorothalonil: Ranman, Previcur Flex and Zampro. Products that are very good for use in a tank mix as a rotation partner are Forum, Tanos, Gavel (Gavel contains mancozeb, which is a protectant, and does not need a tank-mix partner), Curzate, and Presidio. Remember to alternate among products in different fungicide groups.



Fig. 1. Downy mildew on the upper (left image) and lower (right image) leaf surface. Lesions are dark brown, and irregular in shape. Larger lesions often have adjacent small, dark brown "dots."

Note: Downy mildew is now confirmed on **pumpkin, cantaloupe, cucumber** and **watermelon** on Delmarva. **All cucurbit crops** should be protected with downy mildew targeted fungicide applications.

Basil Downy Mildew Update

By Kate Everts, Vegetable Pathologist,
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Basil downy mildew was confirmed in Wicomico county on Aug 13, 2014. The disease has been present in many other locations for some time, and was reported in both Sussex and New Castle Counties in Delaware in June. Our recent moderate temperatures and rainfall will spread the disease. For management information, see the previous Weekly crop update
<http://extension.udel.edu/weeklycropupdate/?p=7048>

Late Blight on Tomato Update

By Kate Everts, Vegetable Pathologist,
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Tomato crops across Delaware and Maryland are at risk of **late blight**. Late blight is now in commercial and home gardens in two counties in western Maryland, and I suspect that unreported late blight is present in additional counties. In addition, our current weather is highly favorable to this disease. Preventative fungicides should be applied. For current reported locations of late blight across the Eastern U.S., see
<http://www.usablight.org/>

We are waiting for the determination of the genotype we have in Maryland. Isolates in nearby states have all been US-23, which means that they are sensitive to mefenoxam, the active ingredient in Ridomil Gold Bravo. Additional fungicides, which are effective on late blight when used in tank mix with a protectant fungicide, are Curzate, Forum, Presidio, Previcur Flex, Ranman, Reason, Revus Top, and Tanos. See the University of Delaware/University of Maryland Commercial Vegetable Recommendations for more information at:
<http://extension.umd.edu/mdvegetables/2014-commercial-vegetable-production-recommendations> or
<http://extension.udel.edu/aq/vegetable-fruit-resources/commercial-vegetable-production-recommendations/>

Commercial 2014 Vegetable Production Recommendations Maryland EB 236



On-Line at

<http://extension.umd.edu/news/2014-commercial-vegetable-production-recommendations-maryland>

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