

MANITOBA WEEKLY VEGETABLE REPORT

Manitoba Agriculture, Food & Rural Initiatives

Crops Knowledge Centre

Vegetable Report

August 27, 2009

General Comments

A mixed bag of weather that didn't amount to much other than to prove I shouldn't try to drive muddy roads in a 4x2 sums up this week. Surprisingly little development of leaf disease to this point; the same cautions as last week apply as conditions are ideal. Lots of dew that lasts a long time before burning off coupled with good humidity and plenty of rainfall continues to provide near ideal conditions. The limited heat has been helping in the disease aspect though.

Carrots

We collected six (6) and eighteen (18) leafhoppers in the two fields (100 – 180° sweeps per field) yielding aster yellows index (AYI) values of 24 and 72, both below the level of the economic threshold for resistant varieties. We are using an estimate of 4% for the infectivity level this year.

Symptoms of aster yellows were observed on the foliage for the first time this week but in very limited amounts. Only single leaves on single plants in each field were observed and when you consider I walk by several hundred plants while sweeping and looking for symptoms, this could be considered to be very low. It is worthwhile noting that symptoms are showing up though, so we'll continue scouting for leafhoppers for at least another couple of weeks. Typically we have higher numbers of leafhoppers at this point in the year and they are intuitively more infective than earlier in the year (simply because they've had more time to pick up inoculum). It shouldn't be much of a problem due to the general lack of leafhoppers and inoculum this year but we'll see.



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Crucifers

Fields scouted were generally clean thanks to actions taken by growers responsible for those fields. Cabbage butterflies (*Pieris rapae*) were still present but any larvae previously found in the scouted areas had been taken care of.

It is worth considering a spray application at this time for thrips management in cabbage, depending on the staging of the cabbage. As cereal fields ripen off, thrips migrate out to greener food sources and can do a significant amount of damage to cabbage as they get inside the head. They don't do much yield reduction but quality can be reduced significantly at this point as they scar the head by their rasping feeding.

Cucurbits

Surprisingly no powdery mildew was detected this week. This is still a serious consideration given the weather conditions.