

MANITOBA WEEKLY VEGETABLE REPORT

Manitoba Agriculture, Food & Rural Initiatives

Crops Knowledge Centre

Vegetable Report

September 03, 2009

General Comments

Welcome to summer. This time it looks to be lasting longer than two days and is certainly welcome to say the least, but is not without its problems. In addition to the warm temperatures we have seen some south winds and much to my surprise an influx of aster leafhoppers. Thankfully the warmer temperatures haven't spurred on too much disease as yet.

Carrots

As mentioned above, leafhopper numbers have taken a significant jump upwards in numbers. With the warm weather came some substantial south winds and though I wasn't expecting any influx of pests, we seem to have seen just that. A population of green peach aphids showed up surprisingly in some potato fields in numbers greater than we'd expect from migration from other crops and we've also seen the leafhopper numbers jump similarly. Normally we wouldn't expect any sort of migration at this time, but the jump in population numbers of leafhoppers is too great to be attributed to local populations that have been low for the duration of the summer.

Aster yellows symptoms were identified on more plants this week, though still relatively low numbers percentage wise. I would expect those percentages to increase over the next several weeks, particularly if the warm weather sticks around for more than a week. The leafhoppers will be very active in the warmth and we have no way of knowing the level of infectivity of these leafhoppers at this point. Generally the infectivity increases as the season progresses so the number of leafhoppers required to cause problems is generally lower.

It takes two to three weeks from transmission of the phytoplasma to the carrots before symptoms start appearing and make their way down to the carrot itself. If harvest is at least two weeks away, leafhopper populations will need to be monitored and controlled to avoid having symptoms show up late in the season.



We collected 48 and 122 leafhoppers in the two fields (100 – 180^o sweeps per field) yielding aster yellows index (AYI) values of 192 and 488, both well above the economic threshold for resistant varieties. These calculations are made based on an estimate of 4% of the infectivity level this year; it is quite possible the infectivity is now higher than that rate.

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Crucifers

Most of the crucifer crops that have been scouted are now in the process of being harvested. Likely there will not be further reports on crucifers this year. One item that has been surprising to note has been the lack of re-emergence of crucifer flea beetles this year, a perennial fall problem thanks to the canola being off the fields usually by this point in the year. Obviously there is still plenty of canola out there, but the beetles don't seem to be back in there either. Certainly there is still time for the flea beetles to show up, but so far not yet.

Cucurbits

Granted I'm no plant pathologist, but I confess my surprise that there is still no powdery mildew in the fields being checked. Lots of moisture, some heat then cool, now more heat and plenty of dew in the morning? What's missing from this picture? So far only the powdery mildew. Never look a gift horse in the mouth, but I won't be surprised when it finally shows up.