

MANITOBA WEEKLY VEGETABLE REPORT

Manitoba Agriculture, Food & Rural Initiatives

Crops Knowledge Centre

Vegetable Report

September 10, 2009

General Comments

This will be the last vegetable report for 2009, aside from the year end summary that will come out at a later date. Remarkably, disease symptoms are few and far between at this point.

Carrots

In the fields being sampled, spray operations were carried out over the last week in response to the sudden increase in aster leafhopper populations. As a result, sweep samples returned counts of zero leafhoppers and a corresponding value of zero on the aster yellows index. No increase in the number of plants showing symptoms was noted, though this can take some time to develop.

With respect to how long to carry on control efforts, that depends on how long carrots will remain in fields. It takes two to three weeks from transmission of the phytoplasma for the symptoms to show up in both the foliage and the root. If harvest will be within two weeks, control measures are largely unnecessary. If harvest will be longer than two weeks, it is a very good idea to continue scouting the crop and apply control measures as necessary. A frost doesn't necessarily kill either the carrots or the leafhoppers and we have good data from years past indicating that leafhopper populations carry on quite happily towards the end of September in spite of multiple frost events. Leafhopper activity is reduced in cooler, wet weather, but continues until at least the end of September and as such risk of transmission remains a risk over that period as well.



Crucifers

As with leafhoppers, several of the potential crucifer pests will remain active beyond the first frost. Caterpillars seem to do quite well if they establish in the head and flea beetle activity, which has been increasing over the past week, can continue beyond frost events.

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Cucurbits

Only an interesting side note, but while driving past some cucurbits not normally scouted it was quite easy to see some plants had been quite severely affected by bacterial wilt. These plants were quite distant from the fields scouted for this report. Through the year it was indicated that few cucumber beetles were seen but the caveat that this was only in the scouted fields was given as well. This is always the case as cucumber beetles, the vector for bacterial wilt, are often high in some areas but totally absent in others.

