

September 7, 2019

PEST ALERTS: **Beets**– NO leafminers reported... anyone?; **Brassicas**– flea beetles are around, so are ALL of the caterpillars, so protect fall crops, pay attention to those Bok Choi and Asian mustard mixes... **Brassica downy mildew** seen on green wave mustard **microgreens** in Maine– This may have come in on seed, so beware of the possibility; **Celery anthracnose (leaf curl)** samples sought by Penn State– let us know if you have it...; **Cucurbit downy mildew** is now found on cucumbers and melons– this is the other race, and not surprising at this time of year... Numerous interesting **cucurbit diseases** reported in New England, including **black rot** on spaghetti squash, **fusarium** on butternut, **unidentified** wilt of watermelon vines, **bacterial wilt**, and **verticillium**... **Sunscald on Winter Squashes**– Do you ever see much?; **Tomato/Potato**– NO **late blight** has been reported east of Syracuse, NY... lots of other foliar diseases taking down tomatoes in the field, tunnel tomatoes generally in much better shape; **Flint/Pop/Ornamental Corn**– be on the lookout for **Northern Corn Leaf Blight**; **Aphids** on **Hemp** in VT and CT... are you growing hemp? What are you seeing? --> **Need to discuss? Got something you need looked at? URI Extension: 401-874-2967/andy_radin@uri.edu, hfaubert@uri.edu**



Keep on Picking, Washing, Packing, Delivering!

For many of you, September takes you through the deepest heart of madness of the growing season. Summer crops are hanging on, root crops are ready, old crops need to be erased, cover crops need to be planted, and young fall crops need attention. Depending on your business model, it may all need to get sold. And perhaps you are feeling a bit weary. The season changes so quickly in September. It triggers a lot of internal review as you get the creeping feeling of a season winding down.

AN IDEA: URI Cooperative Extension would like to host a NOVEMBER grower gathering. The Event: An Open Forum (but not an out-of-control, free-form, ranting session) to discuss production issues and share your Eureka Moments. The Purpose: Sharing Insights for Everyone's Benefit. The Format: Um... not sure yet. Open to suggestions.

ANY INTEREST? Please contact Andy. We'll need critical mass.

Join US! Twilight Meeting



URI Gardner Crops Research Center

7 Thirty Acre Pond Rd., South Kingstown

Wednesday, September 11, 2019 3:45 to 7 PM

- *Two growers share experiences with 1st year HEMP production*
- *Basil Downy Mildew Resistant Variety Trial*
- *Urban-adapted high tunnel production system*
- *Compost-based container media trial*
- *Laser Scarecrow Update*
- *FSMA and GAP Updates from URI Coop Ext and RIDEM*

There will be SNACKS



RSVP: andy_radin@uri.edu, 401-256-7393



Above: Bad case of carrot *Alternaria*;
Above right: Magnesium deficiency on cucumber; Below: what yellow striped armyworms do to tomato fruits; Right: Possibly hypersensitive response to bacterial leaf spot on pepper– disease did not progress;

YOUR PHOTOS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME



The 2019 New England Vegetable and Fruit Conference Is Coming December 10-12

<https://newenglandvfc.org/new-england-vegetable-fruit-conference>

Check website for registration details [Not Live Yet...]



*Join us at the
New England
Vegetable & Fruit
Conference*
December 2019

Report from Middletown

Summer may still be on the calendar but all of a sudden it's Fall on Aquidneck Island. Our winter squash vines went down in a hurry, and we scrambled to get it all in for curing before the downpours came – but the downpours never materialized. Oh well. We did very well with “Long Pie” and “Bush Delicata” – good size and yield, and the latter had excellent powdery mildew resistance. “Honeybaby” butternut will need some extra curing – it passes the fingernail test and looks good inside, but the skins will profit from a few weeks at 75-80 degrees.

Some quick notes on other summer varieties that were successful for us this summer. For slicing tomatoes, Johnny's improved version of “Wisconsin 55” was a clear winner, producing prolific yields of six to eight-ounce tomatoes. “Prospera” a Genovese basil is rated as having “some” downy mildew resistance; it's been a champ and surviving later than any basil we remember.

In the future, we will not plant any cucumbers past July 10th. Cucurbit downy mildew took down a July 15th planting of “Marketmore 76” (the disease got the more resistant “Bristol” last year), even with regular spraying of Bravo Weather Stick. Late zucchini was also a bust here, with “Safari” and “Magda” also producing minimal yields before withering away.

On the plus side, Fall greens – Tokyo Bekana, arugula, Tat Soi, et cetera – from an August 6th planting came through quickly and cleanly, with no flea beetle damage. They almost came through *too* quickly, and we had to hustle to move them. One chef told us (understandably) that he was holding on to his summer menu as long as possible, and he wasn't quite ready for Fall crops just yet. Not sure what the lesson is here, but we keep planting and trying to get everything to full size by October 10th. We shall see. Hope everyone is faring well, and that noting you treasure fell over in last night's wind!