

## Insect/Disease Information

### VEGETABLES

#### Leaf Spot on Eggplant



Cercospora and alternaria leaf spots are common fungal-caused leaf spots on eggplant. Neither species affects the fruit. They overwinter on plant debris in the soil, and usually affect the older, lowest leaves first. If leaves are kept dry infections will not spread, but with multiple overhead waterings, the disease can become severe, causing loss of foliage and a reduction in yield.

To prevent leaf spot, remove all plant parts after harvest, make sure seeds or new transplants are disease-free, and rotate crop location.

*Treatment:* Fungicides should not be necessary on light infections. Severe cases may warrant regular preventative sprays of a fungicide (C-O-C-S, Kocide, Champ, Maneb).

#### Earwigs in Leafy Greens



Iowa State University

We're all familiar with earwigs, but controlling these shy, nighttime insects can be difficult. They feed on a wide variety of living plant material, including vegetable fruits and foliage. Recently earwigs have been observed in the heads of leafy greens, which would warrant control. They can also feed on the soft flesh of developing sweet corn.

Keep in mind that earwigs are also beneficial predators of mites and soft-bodied insects and insect eggs, so they are not all bad.

In the home garden, trapping earwigs is an alternative to insecticides. Use tuna cans filled with 1/2-inch of fish or vegetable oil or bacon grease. Dump out trapped insects and refill can regularly. Rolled up newspaper or corrugated cardboard will also attract insects for hiding during the day. Empty into a can of soapy water regularly.

*Treatment:* If control close to harvest is warranted, products with insecticidal soap or pyrethrin have a PHI of 12-24 hours.

More information can be found on page four of the fall 2007 edition of **Utah Pest News** ([click here](#)).

#### Corn Earworm

Sweet corn has rapidly tasseled up over the last week or two in northern Utah, and growers should be prepared for corn earworm treatment where you have had damage to the ears in past years. Eggs are laid on the silk, so corn treatment should begin at the tasseling stage, 2-3 days before silking. Eggs will continue to be laid on silks until they turn brown.



Minnesota Vegetable IPM Program

Corn earworm larvae cause damage by feeding on the silks which reduces pollination, and direct damage to the ear by feeding on the corn kernels.

## Insect/Disease Activity, continued

The adult is a moth that overwinters as a pupa. A very small population of pupae are able to survive the winter in northern Utah. So the overwintering generation that emerges in spring is fairly small. At this time, they lay eggs on weeds or other vegetables but don't cause economic damage. By the corn tasseling stage, moths from southern Utah will have blown north, greatly contributing to the first summer generation of moths.

If your corn was planted early and formed silks in June, you have probably avoided injury by corn earworm.

**Treatment:** (starting 2-3 days before silking, and continuing until silk turns brown) (**homeowners**) Spray silk with summer oil or Bt (*Bacillus thuringiensis*) every 2-3 days; permethrin (Bayer Advanced Dust, Bonide Eight Dust), spinosad; (**commercial**) permethrin (Pounce, Ambush), esfenvalerate (Asana), bifenthrin (Capture, Brigade), carbaryl (Sevin), spinosad (Success, Entrust)

### Melons



two-spotted spider mite



spotted cucumber beetle

bugguide.net

Vines are quickly running and forming fruits. Small numbers

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of spider mites have been detected on melons in northern Utah, although not at economically damaging levels. Continue to scout your fields so that you can stay ahead of an outbreak.

At the same time, look for feeding injury on leaves by western striped and western spotted cucumber beetles. Adults of both species will also feed on fruits, scarring the rind. These insects are best monitored by field scouting rather than trapping. At this time of year, check plants once/week, examining the entire portion of the plant, including the undersides of leaves.



striped cucumber beetle

UConn IPM Program

See July 3 advisory ([click here](#)) for more information on spider mites and May 30 advisory ([click here](#)) for information on cucumber beetles.

**Treatment** for cucumber beetles: spinosad (Entrust, Success, Green Light), spinetoram (Radiant), carbaryl (Sevin), azadirachtin (Azatin), kaolin clay (Surround), pyrethroids (Asana, Pounce, Warrior), and others

### Onion Thrips

Onion thrips are very active now and damage is quite visible. Remember that severe damage can reduce yield and storage-ability of onions. These minute insects feed on the foliage by rasping their mouthparts across the cell surface, and sucking out the juices, leaving behind silvery, stippled damage. When looking for thrips (a 10x hand lens helps) start by looking at the inner leaves and between leaf folds at least once/week. Treat when more than 30 thrips/plant are found. See June 13 advisory ([click here](#)) for more information.

**Treatment:** azadirachtin (Azatin, Neemix), spinosad (Success, Entrust, Green Light), spinetoram (Radiant), insecticidal soap, kaolin clay (Surround), carbamate (Lannate), permethrin (Ambush, Pounce)

Movento (spirotetramat), a new systemic insecticide from Bayer, was recently registered for onion thrips control, but it is most effective when applied early in the season as there is a 2-3 week "lag" time while the material moves through the plant. Consider this option next spring.

### Small Fruits & Vegetables IPM Advisory

is published weekly by Utah State University Extension

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