Robert Hadad
Cornell Vegetable Regional Specialist
rgh26@cornell.edu  585-739-4065

WHAT’S BUGGING YOU?
Insect Pests
Onion Maggot
Eggs at Plant Base
Pest Issue

- Maggots 1/16-3/8” long & feed on roots
- Adults lay eggs at base of plants
- Don’t plant garlic near onions
- Cover crops (grass/grains) nearby may harbor natural enemies
- Higher organic matter in soil may harbor predatory beetles
- Conventional: lorsban
Affected Seedlings
Thrips
Close-up
Pest Issues

- 1/16” long, move rapidly, vary from white to brown
- If you see adults there usually are greater numbers of young
- Less active in cooler weather
- Spinosad – Entrust
- Conventional: Penncap-M, MSR, Warrior II & other pyrethroids, Lannate, Radiant - spinosyns
Feeding at Base of Leaf
Onion & Western Flower Thrip
Seed Corn Maggot
Pest Issues

- $\frac{1}{4}''$ long prefer high organic matter/residues and cold wet soils
- Be sure nearby green manure cover crops disced under completely to speed up decomposition
- Natural enemies including some nematodes and parasitoid and predatory beetles
- Conventional: Lorsban, Sepresto,
Cutworms
Pest Issues

- Natural enemies
- Winthemia quadripustulata - tachinid fly
- Steinernema carpocapsae – predatory nematode
- Bacillus thuringiensis
- Feed at night
- Likes heavier crop residues
- Conventional – Lannate, Warrior, Mustang
Bulb Mites
Pest Issues

- Most damage occurs at the roots and basal plate
- Remove all bulbs remaining in the field after harvest
- Destroy cull piles
- Wide host range
- No pesticides available
Wheat Leaf Curl Mite
Pest Issues

- Affects garlic in storage
- Feeding damage opens up injury to rots
- Periodically shows up
- May be linked to previous use of grain cover crop
- Wheat, rye, sorghum/Sudan grass
- Rotate cover crops with legumes
Leek Moth
Pest Issues

- Moth is ½” speckled with white spot half way down wings
- Larvae are creamy yellow 3/8-1/2”
- On garlic larvae feed on the leaf surface but don’t feed all the way through. Found in the protection of the folded leaves
- Feeding damage: whitish dead patches or streaks running down leaves & on the scapes of hardneck garlic.
- The first generation (May-June) feeds on the leaves. The worst damage is done by the second generation (July-August) as it moves down the leaves into the bulb.
- Feeding damage stunts plant growth, bulb rot and storage rot
- Entrust
- Conventional: Warrior II, Lannate LV, Radiant
Feeding Damage at Harvest & Found in Storage
Pest Issues

- Not sure what it is
- Found in soil at harvest
- Found in stored garlic
- May be wire worm damage
- May be maggots of storage moths