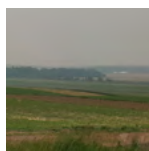




VEGEEdge

YOUR TRUSTED SOURCE FOR RESEARCH-BASED KNOWLEDGE

Volume 19 • Issue 10 • June 14, 2023



Smoke Not a Problem for Vegetables

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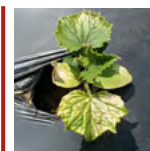
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Smoke Not a Problem for Vegetables

Steve Reiners, *Professor in Horticulture, Cornell University, Cornell AgriTech*

Canadian wildfires are impacting air quality here in the Northeast. Smoke has filled the sky and warnings issued for outdoor activities. This is making many growers and gardeners worried about the potential impact the smoke will have on field grown vegetables. The good news is the impact will be minimal at worst.

Smoke filled skies decrease sunlight and reduce photosynthesis but to a small degree and temporarily. Despite the shade, there is still enough diffused light penetrating the smoke to maintain growth. Smoke typically does not block the pores in the leaf (stomata) where photosynthesis happens. The most important thing you can do is maintain good soil moisture by optimizing irrigation. This will keep the pores open and clean.

Concerns that leafy greens and other commodities will pick up a smokey flavor are unwarranted. Recent research done in California after wildfires there showed leafy greens had no issues with flavor or possible volatile chemicals on or within the leaves. The smoke we're seeing does not contain dangerous chemicals. The smoke we are experiencing is nearly 100% from the burning forests, not plastics, buildings or chemicals as seen in recent train derailments. The rain that falls through this smoky layer is also not dangerous to plants, people, or animals. Unlike acid rain that forms from the burning of high sulfur fuels, the rain will be near neutral pH or just slightly acid.

Pollinators will likely stay close to their hives when it's smoky. It's a little early in the season for pollination of squash and other fruiting crops, so this should not be a problem. Even if the crop has flowers, bees will become active again as soon as the smoke clears.

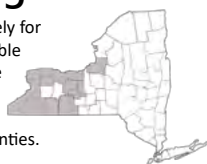
Mask up when you're outside tending to your plants as the smoke is a danger to you and me. But the vegetables should be fine. Keep them well watered, and you should be enjoying a normal harvest later this summer.



Smoke from the Canadian wildfires filled the sky above this farm in Yates County on June 6, 2023.
Photo: J. Reid, CCE Cornell Vegetable Program ●

About VegEdge

VegEdge newsletter is exclusively for enrollees in the Cornell Vegetable Program, a Cornell Cooperative Extension partnership between Cornell University and CCE Associations in 14 counties.



The newsletter is a service to our enrollees and is intended for educational purposes, strengthening the relationship between our enrollees, the Cornell Vegetable Program team, and Cornell University.

We're interested in your comments. Contact us at:
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Information provided is general and educational in nature. Employees and staff of the Cornell Vegetable Program, Cornell Cooperative Extension, and Cornell University do not endorse or recommend any specific product or service.

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CCE and its employees assume no liability for the effectiveness or results of any chemicals for pesticide usage. No endorsement of products or companies is made or implied. READ THE LABEL BEFORE APPLYING ANY PESTICIDE.

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Help us serve you better by telling us what you think. Email us at cce-cvp@cornell.edu or write to us at Cornell Vegetable Program, 480 North Main Street, Canandaigua, NY 14424.



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The next issue of VegEdge newsletter will be produced on June 21, 2023.

Accumulated Growing Degree Days, 6/12/23

Julie Kikkert, CCE Cornell Vegetable Program

Accumulated Growing Degree Days (AGDD)
Base 50°F: April 1 - June 12, 2023

Location**	2023	2022	2021
Albion	487	576	581
Appleton	454	521	535
Arkport	414	458	490
Bergen	451	541	538
Brocton	486	569	593
Buffalo*	512	558	607
Ceres	364	440	496
Elba	425	515	517
Fairville	446	537	526
Farmington	467	546	559
Fulton*	453	534	516
Geneva	501	566	575
Hammondsport	444	540	539
Hanover	445	556	566
Jamestown	439	470	520
Lodi	540	647	525
Lyndonville	464	439	546
Niagara Falls*	542	589	556
Penn Yan*	516	579	604
Rochester*	499	557	571
Romulus	510	588	580
Sodus	521	591	594
Versailles	456	548	543
Waterport	462	503	515
Williamson	406	519	499

* Airport stations

** For other locations: <http://newa.cornell.edu>

Swede Midge Management for Summer and Fall Brassicas

Elisabeth Hodgdon, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Eastern NY Commercial Horticulture Program

Mid-June is often the time of year when farms start noticing swede midge damage in their spring-planted and early summer brassicas. Swede midge, a small invasive fly, begins emerging from overwintering spots in fields beginning in late May. Larvae feed on the growing points of brassica vegetables and cause distorted growth. Plant response to feeding is slow and takes around 3 weeks to show up, serving as a warning for growers to protect their subsequent brassica plantings. Crop rotation, exclusion netting, and synthetic insecticide application, paired with an understanding of the insect's life cycle, are most effective for preventing damage from this pest.

Multiple aspects of swede midge's biology and behavior make this pest challenging to manage on farms. The insect has several overlapping generations during the year and is present on farms from May until October/November. It is very small (~1/16 inch or 2mm), and can't be scouted for in the same way that one can scout for other brassica pests such as large caterpillars. Plant damage is visible only after larvae exit the plant to pupate in the soil, where they cannot be reached with most management strategies. Monitoring using pheromone traps can help track this "invisible pest" around the farm to better understand where it is present to inform crop rotation.

Crop rotation through time and space can help prevent swede midge populations from becoming large on farms. The Cornell Vegetable Program's factsheet, [New Crop Rotation Recommendations for Swede Midge](#), helps farms plan rotations to avoid swede midge pressure. When planning late summer and fall brassica rotations, avoid fields where swede midge damage has been observed. Select fields as far away as possible. If all fields are infested, it is best to skip fall brassica plantings unless conventional insecticide application is possible.

Conventional insecticides can be very effective in managing swede midge. Systemic insecticides, such as neonicotinoids, should be applied to seedlings, and additional applications of labeled products should be made until heading. Broccoli and other heading brassicas are susceptible from seedling to heading stages. Admire Pro, Assail 30G, Movento, Warrior II, and Senstar are insecticides labeled for swede midge in NYS. See labels for rates and other application information. No OMRI-listed insecticides are reliably effective against swede midge, mainly because they lack systemic activity.

Insect exclusion netting is the best management option for organic farms with limited land bases for crop rotation. Netting should be installed over uninfested ground and should have holes small enough to exclude the small swede midge. See the factsheet [Organic Management of Swede Midge](#) for more details on using netting and additional information for organic growers. To date, there are no natural enemies for swede midge that effectively reduce damage. Other management strategies, such as deep tillage, exclusion fencing, essential oils, and intercropping, and several others, have been tested but were ineffective. Research is ongoing to develop tarping, pheromone mating disruption, and other strategies for organic management of swede midge but are not yet available. ●



Lack of head formation in broccoli due to swede midge larval feeding. Photo: E. Hodgdon, CCE



◀ Adult swede midge fly. Photo: S. Ellis, USDA APHIS

Pre-Emergence Herbicide Registration for Hemp in New York

Lynn Sosnoskie, Assistant Professor of Weed Management in Specialty Crops, Cornell

Weeds have been a significant concern for hemp producers; the lack of conventional herbicides has limited the numbers of tools available for weed management relative to agronomic and many specialty crops. On 12 June, 2023, the NYS DEC accepted a supplemental label for Sonalan® HFP use on hemp (which expires on 1 May, 2026). Applicants must have the supplemental label when applying the product. When using a supplemental label, all applicable directions, restrictions, and precautions on the container label must be followed.

Ethalfuralin is the active ingredient (ai) in Sonalan® HFP Herbicide; ethalfuralin is primarily effective for the management of annual grasses (such as crabgrasses, foxtails, and barnyardgrass), although some annual broadleaf weeds (such as pigweeds, nightshades, and lambsquarters) are also susceptible to control. Sonalan® HFP can be applied to the soil surface before or after planting (but before hemp has emerged) at rates ranging from 1.5 to 3 pt/A (0.5625 to 1.125 lb ai/A). Application rates are dependent on soil type; use the lower labeled rate on coarse soils. Sonalan® HFP is limited to one application per year. The product must be incorporated mechanically or with irrigation. Poor incorporation will result in erratic weed control. The product can be used in both directed seeded and transplanted crops.

continued on page 4

Ethalfuralin has not been tested on all hemp varieties, nor on all soil types, and it is recommended that growers make applications to small areas to ensure crop safety. Adverse edaphic and environmental conditions, such as cloddy or flooded fields, can enhance crop injury potential. Uneven application and/or incorporation can also increase the chance of crop injury. Ethalfuralin is a WSSA 3 (microtubule inhibitor) herbicide same as pendimethalin and trifluralin; injury symptoms can include stubby roots, swollen stem bases, and stunted plants. See the NYS DEC Bureau of Pesticides Management - Information Portal (NYSPAD <https://www.dec.ny.gov/nyspad/?3>) for a copy of the supplemental label. More information about Sonalan® HFP can be found at the Gowan USA website: www.gowanco.com/ ●

Sweet Corn Pheromone Trap Network Report, 6/13/23

Marion Zuefle, NYS Integrated Pest Management Program, Cornell; <https://sweetcorn.nysipm.cornell.edu/>

Statewide, twelve sites reported this week with European corn borer (ECB)-E caught at four sites. ECB-Z was caught at two sites. The hybrid ECB was not caught this week. Only one site reported corn earworm (CEW). And still no fall armyworm (FAW) or western bean cutworm (WBC) at any of the reporting sites. ECB numbers are still low but degree day accumulations are getting close to peak flight at several sites. When scouting for ECB focus on the emerging tassel. Separate the leaves and look down into the tassel for any signs of feeding, frass or larvae. The threshold for ECB and FAW is 15% infested plants at tassel emergence.

See the [full blog post](#) for photos. Also, there is an interactive graph and map to select the location that you are interested in to see what has been reported for that site to date. You can filter to see only certain pests and determine what the current accumulated degree days are for a given site.

WNY Pheromone Trap Catches: June 13, 2023

Location	ECB-E	ECB-Z	ECB Hybrid	CEW	FAW	WBC
Batavia (Genesee)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Bellona (Yates)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Eden (Erie)	0	0	NA	0	0	0
Geneva (Ontario)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hamlin (Monroe)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Leroy (Genesee)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Lyndonville (Orleans)	0	0	NA	0	0	0
Oswego (Oswego)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Panama (Chautauqua)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Penn Yan (Yates)	0	0	0	0	NA	NA
Portville (Cattaraugus)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Ransomville (Niagara)	0	0	NA	0	0	0
Stanley (Ontario)	0	2	1	0	0	0
Williamson (Wayne)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

ECB: European Corn Borer; CEW: Corn Earworm; FAW: Fall Armyworm; WBC: Western Bean Cutworm; DD: Degree Days; NA: not available; [DD: Degree Day \(base 86/50\) accumulation starting April 1 from Climate Smart Farming](#) ●

Scouting Onions for Botrytis Leaf Blight Halo Lesions

Christy Hoepting, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Cornell Vegetable Program

Botrytis Leaf Blight (BLB) lesions are the tiny pin-prick to pin-head sized yellow necrotic spots surrounded by silvery halos (Fig. 1, lesions 5 and 6). The silvery halo is often blotchy in shape.

Sometimes the necrotic spot is barely visible, which can make identification of such versions of these lesions tricky to identify (Fig. 1, lesions 2 and 3).

When BLB lesions get old, the center becomes sunken and often splits, it is still yellowish in color and remnants of the silvery halo can usually still be seen (Fig. 1, lesion 9).

Herbicide injury and various nicks and dings caused by blowing debris or herbicide injury may be confused with BLB lesions (Fig. 2).

BLB lesions can be distinguished by their ghostly appearance not penetrating the leaf surface. BLB lesions are most abundant on the outer leaves, usually on the underside of the leaf, and are distributed anywhere along the leaf. All of these lesions are counted when scouting to use for spray thresholds for BLB. Count the number of BLB halo lesions on the outer three leaves of 20-30 plants per field. Numbers can be highly variable among plants, so it is good to take a look at several plants. The number of lesions per leaf is the number of lesions per plant divided by 3. The spray threshold is 1.0 BLB per leaf.



Figure 1. Ten Botrytis leaf blight (BLB) lesions on an onion leaf. Lesion No. 1, 4, 5, 6 and 7 have tiny yellow necrotic centers. In lesion No. 2 and 10, the necrotic center is not visible. Lesion No. 8 does not have a distinct yellow center and blends into No. 7. Lesion No. 9 is an old lesion with a sunken center and silvery halo still visible. Photo: C. Hoepting, CCE CVP

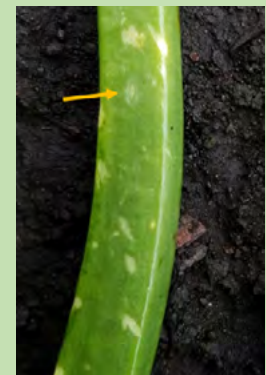


Figure 2. BLB lesion amongst other necrotic spots on onion leaf. Photo: C. Hoepting, CCE CVP ●

CROP Insights

Observations from the Field and Research-Based Recommendations

GENERAL

Rain – what a relief! Expect a flush of weeds in the next week. Most pre-emergent herbicides applied in May are unlikely to offer residual control at this point. – EB

BEETS

Some processing fields were replanted last week because of poor stands from dry soil. Beneficial rain will help germination and herbicide activation. Cutworms remain a concern throughout the month of June in seedlings and young plants. Cultivation, post-emergence herbicides and hand-weeding may be needed to reduce weed escapes. – JK

CARROTS

Leafhopper scouting and management is important at this time. The main concern is the spread of aster yellows. See page 174 of the 2023 Cornell Vegetable Guidelines for management options. – JK

CUCUMBERS

We continue to see delayed damage from the cold snap of a few weeks ago. Cucumbers are showing bleached leaves and a concentrated set of flowers in the growing point (Fig. 1). The shock of low temperatures appears to have signaled young transplants to flower immediately. Plants will likely grow out of this damage, however an early fruit set can stunt a crop by dedicating energy to fruit production while the plant is undersized. – JR

Early plantings of cucumbers in high tunnels are highly susceptible to cucumber beetles (Fig. 2), as outdoor cucumbers are delayed and smaller in size. Since high tunnels cucumbers are planted much earlier than in the field, it can be expected that emerging adults will move into high tunnels on farms with field grown cucurbits. Exclusion techniques such as insect netting on high tunnel side walls can reduce infestations. Cucumbers can tolerate higher temperatures than tomatoes, so reduced air-flow is generally not a problem. As we promote only self-fertile cucumber varieties for high tunnels, excluding bees is also not a concern. For these reasons, exclusion can work well for high tunnel cucumbers (vs tomatoes). What can we spray in a high tunnel that is legal and effective? For organic control, Cornell Guidelines suggest weekly sprays of Neemix combined with Pyganic. These materials are both acceptable for greenhouse crops, however the pyrethrins in Pyganic may lead to aphid outbreaks. Turning then to conventional materials, we also want to avoid promoting aphids with pyrethroids, so we avoid the 3A class of insecticides. – JR

Wind damage on young cucumber plants can show leaf spot symptoms. These spots are often confused with plant diseases. Young gangly transplants have thin stems and often elongated. The wind blowing across fields whip the plants around damaging stems as well as leaf tissue (Fig. 3). Drier sandy soils can make the problems worse when the wind picks up sand grains and blast the leaf tissue. Once the plants become established, they can tolerate the wind more and with more foliage present in the cucumber plot, lessens the severity of sand grains being blown across. Leaf damage presents tan spots randomly over the leaves after a few days after the wind event. If the weather is predicted to be cool and damp, it might be advisable to spray a preventive fungicide such as copper on the crop to reduce the chance of fungal infection. – RH



Figure 1. Cold damage on a cucumber transplant shows discolored leaves and a premature flower set. Photo: J. Reid



Figure 2. Early planting of cucumbers in high tunnels are susceptible to cucumber beetles, as outdoor cucumbers are delayed and smaller in size. Photo: J. Reid, CCE



Figure 3. Tan spots across the cucumber leaf surface resembling abrasions and scarring rather than disease-like symptoms. Photo: Univ. of Maryland Extension

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ONIONS

The dust finally settled as rain fell across the region on Monday, which ranged from 0.5 inch in Elba to over 2 inch in Sodus. I was in a field in Oswego that got 1.5 inches of rain and the muck had soaked it right up with no ponding at all. The direct seeded crop generally ranges from 2.5-leaf to 5-leaf this week with some smaller onions in later-planted fields. The earliest transplants have 0.5-inch bulbs and 7-9 leaves. The crop is looking very good. We did not detect any movement in onion thrips over this past week. Although we did not detect any Botrytis leaf blight (BLB) this week, the forecasted wetter and cool weather is expected to be more favorable for BLB (optimum: 12 hours of leaf wetness when temperatures are 59-65 °F). Mancozeb 1 lb/A is a simple and affordable first fungicide spray to apply at first detection of BLB when disease pressure is low (< 1.0 BLB halo lesions/leaf).

Generally, post-emergent weed control has been a challenge this spring, because the waxy cuticles of the weeds has gotten thick making post-emergent herbicides less effective. Earlier applications of Goal 2XL, Goaltender and Chateau to 1-2 leaf onions resulted in very little onion injury in this dry weather. Last week's applications of higher rates of post-emergent herbicides, such as Goal 2XL 2-4 fl oz/A +/- Buctril 6-8 fl oz/A (e.g. Broclean, Brox) resulted in variable levels of crop injury, ranging from 5% to >20%. Weed control has also been disappointing with Lamb's quarters being especially difficult to control and Chateau performing very poorly under such dry conditions. Buctril 6-8 fl oz + Goal 2XL 2-4 fl oz has at least significantly injured ragweed and even killed some of the 1-2 inch-sized ones. As a general rule of thumb, if 7 days after a post-emergent herbicide application the weeds are not dead and the onions have 10% of less onion injury, hit them again. Unless the weeds are >3 inch in size with minor or moderate injury (e.g. there is more green than necrotic tissue), you have likely lost the battle and they will have to be hand weeded. It is often a choice between the lesser of the two evils: 1) out-of-control weeds that will reduce yield and require expensive and destructive hand weeding, vs. 2) herbicide injury that could hurt the onions. Since the weather has changed from dry and windy to wetter and cool, it is tricky to predict how tough the weeds and the onions are now – but I guess we are going to find out!

Please join us at the annual **Muck Onion Twilight Meeting next Thursday, June 22 at Dunsmoor Lake Elizabeth farm in Oswego, at 4 pm** – rain or shine! See Upcoming Events for details or CVP.CCE.CORNELL.EDU. – CH

PEAS

The earliest planted processing peas are nearing harvest. These early peas have been through a wide range of environmental conditions from frost to near 90 °F, as well as wet soil to drought. Most of the region received beneficial rain this week which should help yields of younger plantings. – JK

SWEET CORN

Earliest fields are showing tassels. So far not seeing much corn borer damage out in the westernmost counties. Corn earworm is present in some areas – check the corn pest tables on page 4. – EB ●

Upcoming Events – See Cornell Vegetable Program events at CVP.CCE.CORNELL.EDU/EVENTS.PHP

2023 Muck Onion Growers Twilight Meeting in Oswego

June 22, 2023 (Thursday) | 4:00 pm - 6:50 pm; catered dinner at 7:00 pm

John Dunsmoor Farm – Lake Elizabeth, 777½ County Route 53, Oswego, NY 13126

CCE Cornell Vegetable Program and Oswego County Vegetable Growers and Improvement Association present the 2023 Muck Onion Growers Twilight Meeting in Oswego! Open to all Onion Enthusiasts, the meeting will feature:

- New developments in fungicide resistance and efficacy for Stemphylium leaf blight, and roll out of 2023 fungicide cheat sheets
- Onion herbicide trial tour and demonstration including:
 - If you miss pre-emergent application of Buctril
 - When it's too dry for Prowl to work properly
 - Killing big weeds in little onions (post-emergent herbicides)
- Tour of onion maggot insecticide trial and thrips management updates

This educational event is immediately followed by a catered dinner; both are FREE thanks to generous sponsors! **RSVP for DINNER by June 19: email Joe DiSalvo at joedisalvo90@gmail.com**

2.0 DEC recertification credits available in categories 1A, 10 and 23, and 0.25 credits in category 4. CCA credits will also be available.

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Upcoming Events

Vegetable Pest & Cultural Management Field Meetings for Auction Growers

Ontario Produce Auction Meeting

June 27, 2023 (Tuesday) | 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Amos Zimmerman Farm, 519 State Rte 247, Rushville, NY

Finger Lakes Produce Auction Meeting

July 12, 2023 (Wednesday) | 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Location TBD

Seneca Produce Auction Meeting - NOTE new address

August 2, 2023 (Wednesday) | 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

David Peachey Farm, 5426 Rt 414, Romulus, NY 14541

These meetings are peer learning events that gather produce auction growers together to tour another farmer's produce farm. Judson Reid, Senior Extension Associate with the Cornell Vegetable Program, along with CCE staff will instruct participants and facilitate peer-based learning. Details on each topic will focus on field observations at the farm.

DEC recertification credits will be offered (1.75 credits in categories 10, 1a, 23, 24).

No registration is required. For more information, contact Judson Reid at 585-313-8912.

Transition to Supervisor Training...in Spanish!

July 20-21, 2023 (Thursday-Friday) | 11:00 am - 4:00 pm

CCE Ontario County, 480 N Main St, Canandaigua, NY

Making the transition from individual performer to supervisor is challenging for most farm employees, it's even harder when language and cultural barriers get in the way. Cornell Agricultural Workforce Development offers training, in Spanish, to equip employees with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed as they seek to advance and take on more responsibility.

See a bilingual flyer here: [Transition to Supervisor, English-Spanish](#)

This program is open to supervisors and employees with potential to be supervisors from all types of agricultural operations. The training is very applied to work and engaging. We will focus on these topics:

- Develop effective work relationships
- Learn essential communication skills
- Manage conflict
- Lead a multi-cultural team
- Build an effective workplace culture to be able to influence teamwork

Cost is \$300 per participant and includes lunch for both days.

[REGISTER](#) online.

For any questions, in English or Spanish, please contact: Mary/María "Bess" Lewis, M.A.T., Bilingual Management Development Specialist / Especialista Bilingüe para el Desarrollo Administrativo, (607) 255-1891, ml2656@cornell.edu

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VegEdge is the highly regarded newsletter produced by the Cornell Vegetable Program. It provides readers with information on upcoming meetings, pesticide updates, pest management strategies, cultural practices, marketing ideas, and research results from Cornell University and Cornell Cooperative Extension. VegEdge is produced every few weeks, with frequency increasing leading up to and during the growing season.

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Cornell Vegetable Program**

For more information about our program, email cce-cvp@cornell.edu or visit CVP.CCE.CORNELL.EDU



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