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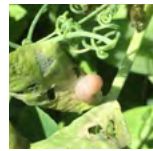
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Controlling Purslane

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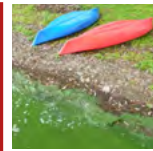
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Controlling Purslane

Elizabeth Buck, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Cornell Vegetable Program

I've fielded a couple calls this week about how to control common purslane, a fleshy, low-growing summer annual. It has some annoying traits:

- Germinates in warm soil, may emerge after pre-emergent herbicides cease to be effective.
- Well-adapted to droughty soils and conditions, flourishes in hot weather.
- Very responsive to excessive phosphorous, also enjoys high N fertility.
- Resists cultivation well. Anything bigger than a seedling is difficult to cut or uproot.
- Severed pieces are capable of re-rooting.
- Flowers in as little as 4 weeks. Flowers are smallish, yellow, and self-pollinate.
- Seeds reach viability in 1-2 weeks after flowering. Seed capsules are difficult to notice and readily pop open readily to release seed.
- Seeds remain viable for decades.

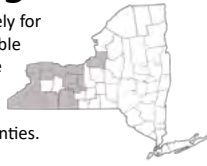
Now, you could choose to eat or sell small populations of common purslane. It is quite nutritious but that's a highly niche, limited market. I'm thinking control tactics are of some interest, yeah?



Stand of common purslane. Inset: Common purslane flowers. Photos: Antonio DiTommaso, Cornell

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: CCE Cornell Vegetable Program 480 North Main Street, Canandaigua, NY 14224 Email: cce-cvp@cornell.edu Web address: cvp.cce.cornell.edu

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Our next issue of VegEdge newsletter will be produced on May 29, 2024.

Are Slugs and Snails Feeding on Your Crops?

Julie Kikkert, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Cornell Vegetable Program

It's no secret that slugs and snails love wet weather, and reports locally and regionally indicate that active feeding is happening at this time. Large slugs and snails that you may have seen in May or early June likely overwintered in the adult stage. More commonly in the Great Lakes region, eggs of slugs/snails that were laid last fall begin to hatch in mid to late May. Feeding occurs one to two weeks after egg hatch. Hence, significant feeding will begin in early to mid-June, with the heaviest feeding in late June and early July. Prolonged wet weather increases slug and snail activity in crops.

To determine if you have slugs and/or snails in your crops, look for signs of damage which may include complete loss of small seedlings; and in older plants, large holes where the veins of the leaf remain intact (skeletonized). There are often trails of slime that glistens in the sunlight. Finding the actual slugs and snails is easiest at dusk or dawn. If you really want to know what is happening, go out with a flashlight in the middle of the night and you may be amazed at how many slugs and snails are out feeding. Slug traps can also be built by placing boards or other materials in the field and looking underneath (you can find options for these on the internet).

Populations of slugs and snails, are often highest in fields with more crop residue, in weedy fields and along hedge rows. While they often spend most of the time underground, pulling back heavy foliage will often find them feeding there. It is estimated that only 5% of the population will be above ground during the summer months. Tillage helps to reduce slug populations, but of course this practice needs to be weighed based on your soil health goals.

In regards to management, overall long-term ecological practices may be best.

- Avoid planting highly problematic crops (such as processing peas) in areas with known heavy slug populations.
- Avoid planting near fields with wet and lush borders, and near ponds and ditches.
- Consider a tilled strip between borders with slugs and your crop.
- Maintain good weed control.
- If slugs and snails are a contaminant in your crop, harvest during the daytime when fewer slugs/snails will be on the foliage.
- Baits are available for use around some crops, but generally must be kept off of the harvestable plant parts (read labels carefully). ●

Agronomic & Rotational Decisions

1. **Don't over fertilize, especially with phosphorous.** If your soil test shows you don't need phosphorous (P), don't add it to your main-season or broadcast blend.
2. **Choose a competitive crop** like corn or dense-canopied vine crops for heavy pressure fields.
3. Tighter spacing can **hasten canopy closure.** Balance this against the risk of crop disease.
4. Very early, short duration crops that have some height (not greens) or crops with very late planting dates (cole crops) would **create a summer control window.**
5. **Consider using plastic mulch** for crops that don't compete well with purslane (ie lettuces, onions) if you can't avoid pressure.

Mechanical Control

1. Common purslane **only emerges from the top 1" of soil.** Work ground shallowly (1-2") to avoid bringing more seeds up to the surface.
2. **Stale seedbed** before late planted crops to deplete the seed bank and reduce the population.
3. **Cultivate young and frequently!** Seedlings can be controlled but plants quickly gain the ability to withstand cultivation. Burial is more successful than severing or uprooting strategies.
4. Select cultivator points, angle, shank action, and tractor speed to **achieve aggressive soil movement while working shallowly.**

Environmental Manipulation (This isn't a sunny, dry field!)

Common purslane doesn't tolerate shade well, especially moist shade.

1. Choke it out with a **dense cover crop.**
2. **Smother it with organic mulch.** Complete coverage is more important than depth.
3. **Tarp it.**

Reduce Seed Rain

1. If you **see flowers, assume seeds** are already present.
2. **Deal with escapes.** Flip upside down if hoeing or hand pulling to prevent re-rooting.
3. Treat with **post-emergent herbicide.**

Herbicides

Herbicide options, timings, and rates vary by crop. No one product will cover all crop types. Between **Prowl H2O, Goal, and Strategy** you can find a non-restricted use preemergent option for most crops. **Below I've listed effective herbicides and which major crops are on the label.**

You need to read the labels before charging ahead and putting down herbicides. Note that PPIs must be incorporated according to label directions to be effective. PRE is prior to and POST is after purslane emergence. **Restricted use materials are noted with an asterisk (*).**

Herbicides with "Excellent" control ratings (generally >90% control)

- *Atrazine (PRE, POST) – cauliflower, melon, sweet corn
- Chateau (PRE) – asparagus, onion, sweet corn
- Clarity (POST) – asparagus. This is dicamba, so be careful close to other crops
- Karmex (PRE) – asparagus
- metribuzin (PRE, POST) – asparagus, carrot, peas, potato, tomato
- *Reflex (POST) – snap and dry beans
- Roundup (POST) – many crops as a burndown prior to crop planting, select row-middle applications

Herbicides with "Good" control ratings (generally >80% control)

- Balan (PPI) – lettuce
- Basagran (POST) – snap and dry bean, peas, sweet corn
- Devrinol (PPI) – asparagus, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, eggplant, pepper, tomato
- Eptam (PPI) – snap and dry beans, potato
- Goal (PRE, POST) – broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, onion
- Impact (POST) – sweet corn
- *Kerb (PRE) – lettuce
- Lorox (POST) – asparagus, carrot, potato
- Matrix (PRE) – potato, tomato
- Prowl H2O (PRE) – asparagus, snap and dry beans, carrot, melon, onion, peas, pepper, potato, sweet corn, tomato, watermelon
- Strategy (PRE) – cucumber, melon, pumpkin, squash
- 2,4-D (POST) - asparagus, corn. Risky to use around most vegetables. ●

CROP Insights

Observations from the Field and Research-Based Recommendations

ASPARAGUS

Continuing to see lots of common asparagus beetle activity. We're at or rapidly approaching the degree day mark for larval feeding to begin. Spotted asparagus beetles are just beginning to lay eggs. Seeing the first rust lesions appearing on the remnants of cut spears. Rust has a complex fungal life cycle that can be interrupted with post-harvest applications of fungicide. For now, monitor your field to determine pressure. Make a plan for killing weeds post-harvest. You'll need to both control annuals and attack perennials. Be prepared to do some manual removal of large perennials prior to treatment. Dock, burdock and other tap rooted perennial species will be better controlled in the long run if you periodically cut out the tap root. – EB

BEETS

Scout for black cutworms (see last week's VegEdge, Crop Insights – Beets) and weed escapes. Cool, wet weather favors **Bacterial leaf spot (BLS)**. The symptoms of BLS are irregular shaped lesions that have tan to deep brown centers with very dark to near black borders. Young plants are most susceptible, and often the infected leaves/plants curl and pucker. Plants will usually grow out of BLS in warm, dry weather. For young, severely infected plants, copper fungicides (many are OMRI-listed) may give them a boost. It is important to use the maximum labeled rate at regular (label specified) intervals. Control will also be enhanced with good air flow. See the [Cornell fact sheet on BLS](https://bpb-us-e1.wpmucdn.com/blogs.cornell.edu/dist/1/7446/files/2021/10/BLS-fact-sheet_v2.pdf). https://bpb-us-e1.wpmucdn.com/blogs.cornell.edu/dist/1/7446/files/2021/10/BLS-fact-sheet_v2.pdf



Bacterial leaf spot on table beets in New York. Note dark to black borders of the leaf spots. Photo: Sarah Pethybridge, Cornell

CARROTS

Scout for early season insects (black cutworm are active), diseases, and weeds. – JK

COLE CROPS

Hearing about worm, flea beetle, and cabbage maggot damage in cole crops. Refer to the cabbage maggot article in [April 17, 2024 issue of VegEdge](#) (page 9) for the latest maggot recommendations. – EB

CUCUMBERS

Saw my first striped cucumber beetle of the year last week. Make sure you've got your transplants protected! For folks with a spray license, imidacloprid (Admire and generics) is a solid option that offers a few weeks of residual protection. For those of you without a spray license, floating row cover works well, given that it is well-anchored and free of holes. Surround (kaolin clay) is another option for deterrence. Remember to reapply Surround after rains. Pyrethroids also offer activity, both restricted use synthetic and organic derived products. Note that control with the organic products is less thorough than with the synthetic and should be used in combination with another deterrence/avoidance IPM tactic. – EB

GARLIC

Overall, garlic I've been seeing has good size and appears to hold good yield potential. From this point out keep an eye on foliar health. You don't want to see early dieback or excessive tip discoloration at this stage. Scape on time and then be sure to maintain sufficient water during bulbing to bring your current yield potential into actualization. – EB

LETTUCE AND GREENS

With the rain and heat, seeing the usual plant diseases of lettuce. Head and stem/root rots showing up in numerous plantings. Avoidance of planting in lower parts of a field, planting too close together, and weed pressure all contribute to lettuce doing poorly right before harvest. – RH

ONIONS

Nothing but sunshine in the forecast! Earliest direct seeded onion are 2.5-3 leaf stage with the majority of the direct seeded crop at 1.5 and 2-leaf stage, while earliest transplanted onion have 7-8 leaves.

The "weed race" is on! If weeds that escape the pre-emergent herbicide program can be kept to 2" or less by the time onions reach 2.5-leaf which is the safest crop stage to apply "heavy hitters" of post-emergent herbicides, then control of

continued on page 5

emerged weeds will be very good to excellent. Between Chateau and Goal, Chateau 2 oz/A is best for killing tiny (0.5-1") mustards (e.g. marsh yellowcress) and smartweed (SW)/Lady's thumb (LT), and for burning back yellow nutsedge (YNS) 1-3" and perennial sowthistle (especially early-rosette and small mid-rosette). Chateau can also kill 0.5" ragweed (RW) and pigweed (PW) up to 4" (sometimes). Goal 2XL 2 fl oz/A applied at 1.25- to 2-leaf is best for burning back Lamb's quarters (LQ), RW and PW to keep them 2" or less by the time the onions reach 2.5-3 leaf stage, and it also burns back volunteer potato. The new herbicide Optogen (a.i. bicyclopyrone) is in New York now and growers have plans to use it tank mixed with Buctril 2EC 8 fl oz at 2.5-3 leaf stage for control of RW and to put a hold on perennial sowthistle until Stinger 8 fl oz may be applied to 4-leaf onion. I am eagerly waiting to see the results! Seems like any weeds that overwintered in the soil as a rhizome (e.g. perennial sowthistle) or a tuber (volunteer potatoes) are going bananas this spring! A likely function of the mild winter not killing as many off, also no spring frosts to knock them back. I did set up a post-emergent herbicide volunteer potato trial this spring, but so far the potatoes are winning the battle, although I have not given up yet.

Newly hatched baby thrips! Last week's adults observed on transplanted onion have already made babies. Movento 5 fl oz/A is still Cornell's recommendation for the first thrips application of the year. It is recommended when thrips reach 0.6 – 1.0 thrips/leaf and prior to onion bulbing (Fig. 1). Thus, first applications of Movento will be going on transplants with 7 leaves or more this week. All transplants with 4-6 leaves should be scouted for thrips and sprayed if they meet the spray threshold.

Botrytis leaf blight (BLB) has started in early transplants. The overcast and rainy weather over the past few days has been favorable for BLB and the odd halo lesions can be found on onions with 6-7 leaves. Mancozeb works well on BLB halo lesions when pressure is low (< 3 halos/leaf) and is compatible with Movento. May as well add it to the tank mix with Movento. I also saw BLB necrotic spots in Highlander transplants, which is a variety that appears to be susceptible to this leaf disease. Despite this, because Highlander (and other similar early varieties) is harvested so early (mid- to late-July), these fields rarely succumb to excessive leaf dieback from leaf diseases.

Mark your calendars - The annual Muck Onion Twilight Meeting in Oswego has been set for Thursday, June 20, 2024. The onion scouting program and Muck Donut Hour will begin next week. – CH

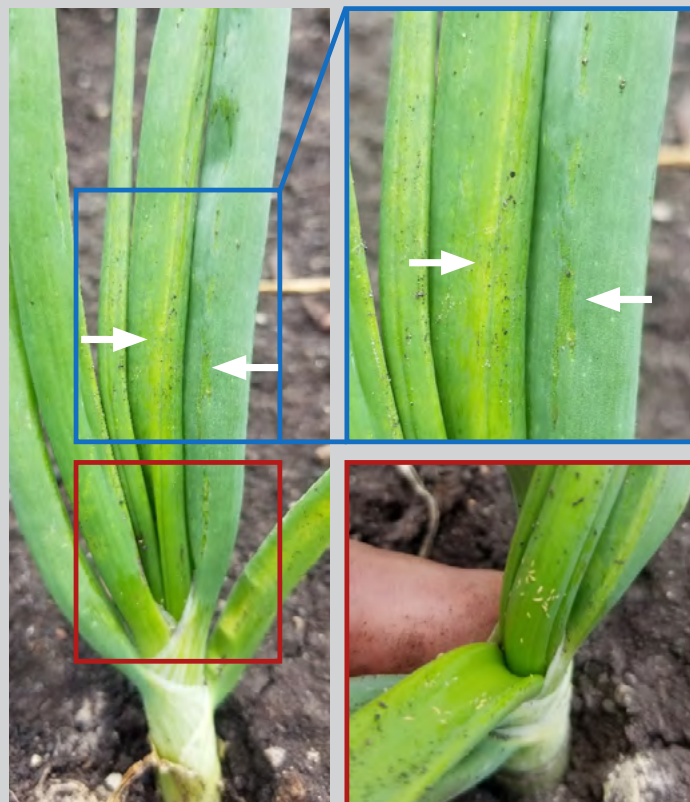


Figure 1. Early thrips feeding appears as a yellowish cast in the youngest leaves in the middle of the plant (see blue outline). A plant that is over the spray threshold (> 1 thrips/leaf) "just has that look" (left & top right, see white arrows). In this 6-leaf plant, 6 or more thrips would be over threshold. Spreading the leaves apart in the leaf axil reveals about 30 thrips larvae (yellow insects) on this plant. If only one plant in 10 plants has 30 thrips and the rest have none, the thrips count would be 30 thrips ÷ 10 plants ÷ 6 leaves = 0.5 thrips/leaf. Photos: C. Hoefting, CVP

PEAS

Scouting for weed escapes is important now. Processing growers can refer to the weed management article in last week's VegEdge. Peas are susceptible to black cutworm and seedcorn maggot, both of which are active now. – JK

SNAP BEANS

Rainy weather, with few good drying days in between, continues to hamper field work. Take note of the following in regards to snap bean herbicides: Eptam 7-E (PPI) may be less effective in cold, wet soils or when heavy rains occur 1 or 2 days after spraying; Prowl 3.3 EC or H2O (PPI) application in cold, wet soils can result in crop injury; Treflan HFP (PPI) is not adversely affected by cold, wet soils or heavy rains; with both Sandea (PreE) and Dual II Magnum (PPI or PreE) crop injury is possible on coarse soils if heavy rain occurs shortly after application. Injury may be increased if the rainfall and application occur just as beans are emerging. Soil texture and organic matter are key factors in selecting an appropriate rate. – JK

SQUASH

Early squash plantings where it has been wet or windy and dry are seeing poor stands. Being weakened by these weather conditions then also experiencing hot sun have set back plant growth. Brittle and broken stems along with sand-blasted leaves, root rots, and general poor vigor will make it tough for these plants to take on cucumber beetle feeding. Seems like early plantings need protection with hooped row cover to get them off to a more robust start. – RH ●

DEC Announces Start of 2024 'NYHABS' Online System for Harmful Algal Blooms

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, from Morning AgClips, 5/28/24

[Back in 2022, I reported in VegEdge (8/10/22 edition) about the potential risk of exposure to harmful algal blooms. These blooms can be hazardous to the health of farmers, farm workers, livestock, and can contaminate produce through irrigation water. In today's edition of Morning AgClips, there is a new announcement from NY DEC reminding people about the hazardous algal blooms (HAB) and what they can do to keep safe and report the information to DEC for monitoring. Here is a condensed version of the article – ed. R. Hadad, CVP]

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Interim Commissioner Sean Mahar and State Department of Health (DOH) Commissioner Dr. James McDonald today remind New Yorkers to learn about and be aware of harmful algal blooms, or “HABs,” as the 2024 HABs notification season starts. DEC’s New York Harmful Algal Bloom System (NYHABS) is now active, providing New Yorkers, including trained citizens, to send reports of HABs to DEC electronically via a simple user- and mobile phone-friendly form.

“As New York experiences warming temperatures, DEC is working closely with the State Department of Health and our local partners to investigate harmful algal blooms and make significant investments to prevent excess nutrients and other contaminants from negatively affecting water quality,” DEC Interim Commissioner Mahar said. “DEC’s updated map and reporting system allows for more effective monitoring of potential threats to the health or recreational use of waterbodies, and we encourage New Yorkers to be on the lookout for HABs and report any sightings.”

DEC and DOH evaluate HABs reports and once confirmed, reports are posted to the NYHABS page. The system features an interactive map of current and archived bloom locations to help keep New Yorkers informed about potential HABs. With resources such as the online HABs map and reporting system, New York continues to be a national leader in supporting initiatives to address HABs across the state and to ensure effective communication to the public. DEC works with DOH, the State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP), and other State and local partners in leading the most comprehensive HABs monitoring and reporting program in the nation. In cooperation with its partners, DEC monitors hundreds of waterbodies annually and works with DOH and OPRHP to ensure the public and environment are protected.

State Health Commissioner Dr. James McDonald said, “Exposure to harmful algae blooms can cause health effects in people and animals, including pets, when water with blooms is touched, swallowed, or when airborne droplets are inhaled. New York State is aggressively proactive in monitoring and combatting these blooms to protect public health, and this new map and reporting system will allow New Yorkers to better ‘Know it, Avoid it, and Report it.’”

While cyanobacteria are naturally occurring in the environment, certain conditions lead to accumulations that become HABs. Blooms are likely triggered by a combination of factors that include excess nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen, lots of sunlight, low-water or low-flow conditions, calm water, and warm temperatures. HAB occurrence and reporting typically increase throughout the season with the most reports received during the warmest months of August and September. Regardless of the presence of toxins, HABs can pose a risk to public health. When it comes to HABs, DEC encourages New Yorkers to “KNOW IT, AVOID IT, REPORT IT.”

KNOW IT – HABs vary in appearance from scattered green dots in the water, to long, linear green streaks, pea soup or spilled green paint, to blue-green or white coloration.

AVOID IT – People, pets, and livestock should avoid contact with water that is discolored or has algal scums on the surface.

REPORT IT – If members of the public suspect a HAB, report it through the NYHABS online reporting form available on DEC’s website. Symptoms or health concerns related to HABs should be reported to DOH at harmfulalgae@health.ny.gov.

For more information about HABs, including bloom notifications, which are updated daily through fall, visit [DEC’s Harmful Algal Blooms webpage](#). The [HAB Program Guide](#), which includes information and links to resources regarding bloom prevention, management, and control, can also be downloaded from the DEC website. Visit DOH’s website for [DOH’s public health information](#). ●



Harmful algal blooms (HAB) on surface water looks like lime green ink. Photo: NOAA Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory, Public domain

Upcoming Events

Indoor Mushroom Cultivation, Post-Harvest Handling, and Food Safety

June 6, 2024 (Thursday) | 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Flat #12 Mushrooms, 37 Chandler St, Buffalo, NY 14127

This workshop is intended for mushroom producers and those considering mushroom production. Hosted by CCE Wyoming County, the workshop includes a tour and discussion of Flat #12 Mushrooms production process, from substrate to sales, including their food safety plan creation, implementation, and the audit process. Alternative production methods will also be discussed.

Speakers include Flat #12 Mushrooms staff, Lori Koenick and Robert Hadad from the Cornell Vegetable Program, Mark Scapena, NYS Ag & Markets Produce Safety/Food Inspector, and CCE Wyoming Educator Don Gasiewicz.

COST: \$10/farm. Register online at https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/IndoorMushroomCultivation_256, by calling 585-786-2251 or email Don Gasiewicz, drg35@cornell.edu by June 2.

Tour, Tarps & Talk!

June 12, 2024 (Wednesday) | 6:00 - 7:30 pm
Kirby Farm Market, 9739 Ridge Rd (Rt 104 West), Brockport

We will **view two tarping demos** to see the effect of overwinter tarping on nitrogen availability and best practices for terminating large cover crops using a tarp. **Chad Kirby will then give us a short tour** of his production spaces near the market, which include vegetable, tree fruit and floriculture crops. Then it is time to snack, network, and talk shop with other growers! We'll have disposable plates, forks, cups, etc but we invite you to bring your own to help us make a more sustainable event! Bring your own folding chairs.

COST: FREE but **registration by June 10** requested so we can provide light refreshments. **Call CCE Orleans at 585-798-4265.**

Muck Onion Twilight Meeting in Oswego

June 20, 2024 (Thursday)

Mark your calendars! More info will be available soon.

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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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