Cornell Cooperative Extension | Cornell Vegetable Program

VEGEdge

YOUR TRUSTED SOURCE FOR RESEARCH-BASED KNOWLEDGE

Volume 21 • Issue 15 • July 30, 2025

Late July 2025 Tunnel Tomato Update

Judson Reid, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Cornell Vegetable Program

High temperatures and lack of foliage lead to cracking and loss of fruit quality. Tomatoes, being mainly water, will expand as temperatures rise. Fruit swelling is affected by ambient temperature, air flow and sunlight. High temperatures, stagnant air and bright sunlight are all accentuated in high tunnels this month. For any sceptics, we offer midday high tunnel tours which include an opportunity to help prune and harvest! Contact Judson for details and pricing. Discounted group rates available.

When the temperature of the fruit rises, and internal water expands, miniscule cracks can develop on the stem end of the fruit (Fig. 1). Often these cracks are minor blemishes, and tomatoes may still be marketable, although often as a lower grade (and price). Frequently the cracks become infection sites for decay organisms, making fruit altogether unmarketable.

In addition to weather and tunnel environment, lack of foliage to cover fruit can also increase cracking incidence. A full canopy that casts shade on the fruit decreases the temperature swings that cause cracking (Fig. 2). How do we develop a full canopy? Adequate fertility and root health (via soil health).

Figure 1. When the temperature of the fruit rises, internal water expands, and miniscule cracks can develop on the stem end of the fruit. *Photo: J. Reid, CCE*

continued on page 3

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

Contributing Writers
Elizabeth Buck
Robert Hadad
Christy Hoepting
Margie Lund
Julie Kikkert
Lori Koenick
Judson Reid

Publishing Specialist/Distribution/Sponsors
Angela Ochterski

VegEdge is published 20+ times per year, parallel to the production schedule of western New York commercial vegetable growers. Enrollees in the Cornell Vegetable Program receive a complimentary electronic subscription to the newsletter. Print copies are available for an additional fee. You must be enrolled in the Cornell Vegetable Program to subscribe to the newsletter. For information about enrolling in our program, visit CVP.CCE.CORNELL.EDU. Cornell Cooperative Extension staff, Cornell faculty, and other states' Extension personnel may request to receive a complimentary electronic subscription to VegEdge by emailing Angela Ochterski at aep63@cornell.edu. Total readership varies but averages 700 readers.

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 N Main St, Canandaigua, NY 14424.

Contents

The next issue of VegEdge will be produced on August 6, 2025.

continued from page 1

Figure 2. A full canopy that casts shade on fruit decreases the temperature swings that cause cracking. *Photo: J. Reid, CCE*

Figure 3. Regular foliar testing can help detect deficiencies that limit canopy development.. In this case the grower keeps soil tests, fertility records and weekly foliar samples in a binder to consult when making management decisionsg. *Photo: J. Reid, CCE*

Regular foliar testing can help detect deficiencies that limit canopy development (Fig. 3), and are increasingly used by professional growers. If you need help finding a lab to conduct foliar tests, or would like support in interpreting your results, please reach out. Remember, #1 fruit come from #1 plants. To grow #1 plants, careful attention to crop health in the 10 weeks from transplant to harvest is essential. ●

Curly Leaf of Celery

Robert Hadad, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Cornell Vegetable Program

If you are a regular fan of VegEdge and have kept up with recent issues, you might remember an article on problems with garlic scapes. On some garlic plants, the scapes would twist differently than normal and there would be a spot where a yellowing to orange colored tissue would start expanding almost daily. The culprit was garlic anthracnose.

Curly leaf in celery is the same disease. It starts off with small lesions that begin as light brown sunken cracks on the stalks. Then leaves start to cup and curl downward twisting as it goes (Fig. 1). The usual dark green stalk color start to turn pale. The stalks may become stunted. As the disease progresses, dark brown to black lesions form on the edges of stalks including the heart tissue near the base. Eventually the heart area rots out.

Anthracnose is the fungal disease with two species responsible for the problem and besides garlic can also be found in apples (bitter rot) and strawberries. How it gets on the farm hasn't been totally determined. It could be seed born then affect nearby weeds. The soil becomes a carrier and splash from rain or irrigation can spread it.

The disease can infect some plants without showing signs of symptoms. Then temperatures between 77- 86F with wet conditions that persist for several days can get things moving. As the temperature rises into the mid 80sF the disease is more apt to show symptoms faster than in the mid 70sF. High humidity (heavy rains or prolonged overhead irrigation) along with poor air flow can increase the development. Marketable losses increase.

Crop rotations for 3-4 years between susceptible crops is a minimum time to start decreasing the disease persistence. Scout often after the foliage dries during wet periods. Aster yellows is sometimes mistaken for curly leaf and vice versa. Aster yellows is spread by leaf hoppers. Selection of the least susceptible varieties can be a big help.

Figure 1. Celery curly leaf disease. *Photo: R. Hadad, CCE*

This is a link to a chart of chemical treatments that were allowed in NY as of 2021: https://www.vegetables.cornell.edu/pest-management/disease-factsheets/celery-anthracnose-leaf-curl-disease/. Be sure to rotate FRAC groups and check the labels for updates for use. ●

Late Blight and Its Lookalikes: Correctly Identifying Late Blight in Your Potatoes

Margie Lund, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Cornell Vegetable Program

With late blight spreading through the region, and being found in potatoes in many counties, it is important to familiarize yourself with how late blight can appear in your crops, and what diseases and conditions may be similar. The descriptions below provide information on various potato diseases, and how their symptoms differ from late blight. For more information and photos of these diseases, see the links listed at the end of the article.

Late Blight

Spreads during wet or humid periods, with higher disease incidence when it is cool and wet. Leaf symptoms: light to dark-green water-soaked spots that will turn brown over time, light green halo will form around the lesion, and white spores will form on the underside of leaves. When conditions are hot and dry like we have been experiencing lately, the brown lesions on the leaves can dry up and spores will disappear making it difficult to identify. Leaf lesions will cross over the mid-vein of the leaf if it comes in contact with the lesion. Lesions and white spores will also form on stems, especially at growing points. Attention should be given especially to parts of the fields that exhibit high humidity, such as low-lying areas, along hedgerows, near weedy patches, and near water.

Sporulating late blight lesions on potato leaves. *Photo from Ontario CropIPM.*

Late blight on the growing point of a potato plant. *Photo from Ontario CropIPM.*

Under dry conditions, late blight will appear as dry brown patches as pictured. *Photo from Ontario CropIPM.*

Early Blight

Brown circular lesions form on leaves with some yellow halos, and browning on stems. However, lesions form a concentric circle "bullseye" pattern with no white spores, and stem lesions show up as flecks instead of larger infected areas.

Four early blight lesions on a potato leaf. *Photo: M. Lund, CCE*

continued on page 5

continued from page 4

Grey Mold

Dark lesions and mold spores form on leaves. However, lesions form a concentric circle "bullseye" pattern and mold spores are grey in color compared to the white spores that form with late blight. Lesions will form on the tips of the leaves and across the mid-vein like late blight, so looking for the concentric circle pattern is a good indicator.

Grey mold lesion and spores. *Photo from Ontario CropIPM.*

Alternaria Brown Spot

Brown lesions will form on leaves and stems. However, lesions usually start out very small and older lesions grow larger with a concentric circle "bullseye" pattern. Lesions on stems will be small and scattered spots.

Alternaria brown spot lesions varying from small to large. *Photo from Ontario CropIPM.*

White Mold

White mold also has white spore growth on foliage, but this mold forms denser fungal growths and areas are not brown to black like late blight. Infected areas turn white in color and dark hard sclerotia will form on stems.

Rhizoctonia

White fungal growth also occurs on stems, but this growth can easily be wiped off and stem tissue under the fungus is not damaged.

Blackleg

Blackleg causes blackened rotting stems in potatoes. However, no white fungal growth will develop, and plants will sometimes produce a fishy smell. Rotting stems develop at the soil line and work their way up the plant.

Blackleg growth along the base of a potato stem. *Photo: M. Lund, CCE*

Heat Stress and Tip Burn

Under heat stress, potato leaves will turn brown. Sometimes full leaves will wilt, and other times browning will occur just along the tips of the leaflets. However, no white spores will form, and brown spots will develop during times of extreme heat and dry conditions.

Water Damage

Water-soaked brown spots form with leaf yellowing surrounding the lesions. However, no white spores will form.

Chemical Damage

Growing points and leaves develop dark lesions. However, lesions will often only form in the boundaries of the leaf veins instead of crossing over veins. Additionally, no spores or yellowing around lesions will form.

Resources for Photos of Diseases Listed:

https://blogs.cornell.edu/livegpath/gallery/

https://cropipm.omafra.gov.on.ca/en-ca/crops/potatoes/diseases

CROP Insights

Observations from the Field and Research-Based Recommendations

BEETS

According to the Beet Cercospora Leaf Spot Decision Support Network (https://newa.cornell.edu) the risk of infection was moderate to severe in our region over the past weekend. Fields that receive rain or are irrigated and have a dense canopy that prolongs leaf wetness are most at risk. There is low risk in fields under continuous drought conditions. – JK

COLE CROPS

Flea beetles are problematic for some folks. Beginning to see more swede midge damage as populations build. Overall this crop is not making up a large proportion of calls at the moment. – EB

CUCUMBERS

Are you ready to RUUMMBLE…with cucumber beetles round 2? That background level of bacterial wilt you're seeing now on the farm, like especially in the fall vine crops. Yeah, they're gonna taste those and then go taste your cukes. And Zukes. And Yellows. And every other vine crop. So continues the circle of life for the bacterial wilt, spread upon the spit of the cuke beetle.

Continuing to see angular leaf spot; have not yet seen downy mildew or received a heads up that it is WNY. Let me know if you see it creepin' in the shadows. – EB

DRY BEANS

Japanese beetles are active in many dry bean fields this week, and Mexican bean beetle adults and larvae have been found in fields as well. Be sure to monitor fields for MBB, as they can quickly defoliate plants if left unchecked. Most fields are now in bloom, so white mold management should be considered. An initial application of Omega 500F is recommended followed by a second application of Endura 70 WDG. The first application should be made at the early bloom stage.

Western bean cutworm trapping continues this week at 15 fields in locations in the region (Table 1). We are likely at peak flight, though we will know for sure after seeing trap numbers next week. Once peak flight has happened, scouting should begin in dry beans. To scout for WBC, inspect 50 plants per field (10 stops, 5 plants per stop), looking at all pods present on the plant for holes. If damage into the pod and seed is found with no larva present, it is possible this is WBC. An insecticide application is recommended if dry bean pod damage is found. *(Project funded by the NYS Dry Bean Endowment and led by Margie Lund, CVP)*

Table 1. Western bean cutworm adult moth numbers by date for each dry bean trap location.

Dry Bean Location	July 1	July 8	July 15	July 22	July 29	Cumulative Moths
Attica (Wyoming Co.)	0	0	10	21	16	**47**
Avoca Valley (Steuben Co.)	-	0	0	6	68	**74**
Avoca Hill (Stueben Co.)	-	0	1	32	112	**145**
Caledonia 1 (Genesee Co.)	1	0	0	22	60	**83**
Caledonia 2 (Genesee Co.)	0	0	0	35	101	**136**
Churchville 1 (Monroe Co.)	1	0	10	112	86	**209**
Churchville 2 (Monroe Co.)	0	1	2	27	29	**59**
LeRoy 1 (Genesee Co.)	0	0	0	7	28	**35**
LeRoy 2 (Genesee Co.)	0	0	1	2	8	**11**
Pavilion (Wyoming Co.)	-	0	0	16	89	**105**
Penfield (Monroe Co.)	-	-	0	25	34	**25**
Geneva 1 (Ontario Co.)	0	0	3	33	65	**101**
Geneva 2 (Ontario Co.)	-	2	9	47	100	**158**
Wayland Valley (Steuben Co.)	-	0	2	17	65	**84**
Wayland Hill (Steuben Co.)	0	2	1	30	134	**167**

ONIONS

Tipburn has set in as direct seeded onions are 1.5-2 inch in size. Some fields have also started to lodge. Unfortunately, it was another hot and dry week, the opposite of what is best during bulbing. In Elba, Stemphylium leaf blight (SLB) increased slightly since last week, likely due to more frequent morning dews driving disease. SLB had more of a primary appearance in some of our scouting fields, but most of the disease remains secondary in all fields. Botrytis leaf blight (BLB) halo lesions decreased while BLB necrotic spots increased and even "jumped" in some fields, as is typical this time of year. BLB necrotic spots are favored by mature and aging leaf tissue and typically begin to ramp up during the third week of July until mid-August and then continue to increase until the crop is fully lodged. Alternatively, BLB halo lesions are favored by young healthy tissue. In fact, sometimes BLB halo lesions at this time of year are an indication of a very healthy crop. For the second year in a row, the strongest correlation with yield was leaf dieback, which was most strongly correlated with BLB necrotic spots. It is yet to be determined how many BLB necrotic spots will reduce yield, but there can be A LOT of spots on onion leaves (e.g. > 50 spots/leaf). BLB necrotic spots range in size from pin-prick to 1-3 mm, with higher densities of larger spots theoretically being more detrimental to yield. There are several FRAC groups with activity on BLB necrotic spots and our best (Viathon + Tilt + Bravo) and second-best (Miravis Prime + FRAC P07, Luna Tranquility + Switch, Bravo + Oso + Rampart) tank mixes have excellent and very good/good activity on BLB necrotic spots, respectively. With 1-3 more fungicide applications left per field, each should provide a minimum of good activity on BLB necrotic spots. All of these tank mixes also have acceptable activity on SLB. See article on page 8 for more information on BLB necrotic spots. For improved plant health and additional control of BLB necrotic spots and SLB, the last 3-4 sprays should include FRAC P07 fungicide – see article

continued on page 7

continued from page 6

in last week's issue of VegEdge (July 23 issue). Growers should strive to not exceed 2 apps of FRAC 3 and 19 fungicides, no more than 2-3 apps (ideally 2) of FRAC 7 fungicides, no more than 5 apps of FRAC P07 fungicides and no more than 10-12 pt/A of Bravo – see articles in July 9 and July 23 issues of VegEdge. As we move into August that has cooler nights and longer periods of dew, growers should include fungicides for downy mildew in each tank mix, including fungicides that belong to FRAC M3 (mancozeb), P07 (Rampart, Reveille, Viathon) or 11 (Quadris). Thrips counts were down in Elba this week after a united effort to crash out-of-control populations was successful. – CH

PEPPERS

Pepper maggot activity is picking up to our east. Open up peppers with small holes or pinprick wounds to determine if you've got pepper maggots or corn borers troubling you. – EB

POTATOES

Late blight has been confirmed in Steuben and Livingston Counties in the last week in potato, and new late blight has been identified in Wyoming County in potato. This is in addition to past late blight identified in Cattaraugus and Wyoming Counties. Late blight collected from Cattaraugus and Wyoming Counties has been identified as US-23 which is susceptible to Ridomil. We suspect other blight is the same strain, though still want to collect any new late blight found for identification as we have had other strains present in NY in past years. Cooler weather and rain expected at the end of the week will provide ideal conditions for sporulation and spread of the disease to new fields. We expect this disease will continue to spread, and a 5-7 day fungicide program using systemic or translaminar options is recommended. If you suspect you have late blight on your farm, please contact CVP Specialist Margie Lund or Elizabeth Buck to come collect a sample for strain identification. Late blight infected leaf tissue will initially appear water-soaked and become brown or black within a few days. Lesions are often surrounded by a halo of light green tissue. Under high humidity, sporulation is visible as a white mold primarily along the lesion edge on the lower leaf surface. Stems and growing points of the plants may also become infected and turn brown. Under dry conditions like we have been seeing lately, late blight can appear as dried out brown spots on leaves and can be difficult to identify. Spots will often cross the mid-vein of the leaf. There are many other diseases and conditions that can appear similar to late blight under dry conditions, so if you think you could have late blight, please reach out to a CVP specialist for help identifying. See this week's article on late blight lookalikes on page 4 for more information. An updated table of common fungicides labeled in NY for late blight control in tomato and potato is available. Contact Elizabeth or Margie to have it emailed to you. – ML

SNAP BEANS

The youngest leaf on plants in fields where there is heat and drought stress may be dry and necrotic as observed this week (Fig. 1). Dry soil conditions do not favor emergence of plantings that would still be going in at this time for late harvest. For fields that are in flower, the high temperatures will likely inhibit pollination, potentially causing reduced or split sets, a problem for one-pass harvest used in processing beans. *From S. Reiners, Cornell:* Daytime temperatures over 86°F or night temperatures over 80°F at flowering can result in poor set. Moisture stress can also lead to problems in beans. Although the critical time for optimum soil moisture is at the time of flowering and set, dry conditions when the crop has two trifoliate leaves can decrease later vegetative growth and affect flower initiation. This may result in lowered yields and uneven crop maturity. – JK

Figure 1. Heat stressed young leaf. *Photo: J. Kikkert, CCE*

SQUASH

Lots of general malaise out there, most of which seems to have a weather component. Scorch, calcium rings associated with insufficient water, heat stress. Also, see cucumber section for bacterial wilt note. – EB

SWEET CORN

Galls of common smut were observed on leaves of two processing sweet corn fields this week (Fig. 2, next page). The disease is common in corn fields and can occur on all above ground parts of the plant, with young actively growing tissue most susceptible to infection. Wounds from insects, hail, or other means provide entry into the plant. Initially, the galls glisten and are silvery white. On leaves the galls remain small and become hard and dry. On tassels, stems, and ears the galls darken and swell. They eventually burst and become masses of dark, sooty spores. The spores overwinter in crop debris or soil and can remain viable for several years. The most effective means of control is to grow resistant hybrids. – JK

continued on page 8

continued from page 7

Figure 2. Common smut on corn leaf this week (left). Common smut on stalk from a previous season (right). *Photos: J. Kikkert, CCE*

TOMATOES

Hi. How's it going? There's late blight, in case you haven't heard (full details in potato section). Would you mind giving us a call if you think it is showing up in your neck of the woods? – EB

BLB Necrotic Spots Correlated with Yield Reduction in Onion

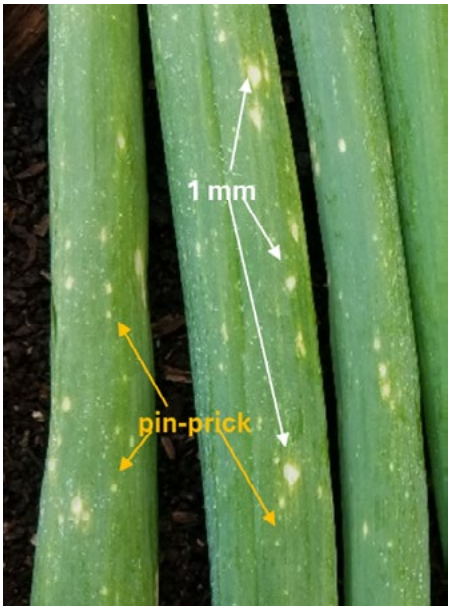
Growers Need to Control Them for Duration of Fungicide Spray Season

Christy Hoepting, CCE Cornell Vegetable Program, and Frank Hay, Dept. of Plant Pathology and Plant-Microbe Biology, Cornell AgriTech

In 2024, for the second year in a row, in on-farm fungicide research trial (Hoepting *et al.*), the strongest correlation with yield was leaf dieback on August 8 (r = -0.7552), which was most strongly correlated with Botrytis leaf blight (BLB) necrotic spots on July 27 (r = 0.8500). **As BLB necrotic spots increased, leaf dieback increased, and yield decreased.**

What BLB necrotic spots look like

- BLB necrotic spots are bright yellow round spots that become yellowish-white as they enlarge. They have a defined white border and range from pin-prick to 1-3 mm in size (Fig. 1 left & middle).
- BLB necrotic spots do not have silvery halos like BLB halo lesions do (Fig. 1 middle)
- Initial lesions caused by Stemphylium leaf blight (SLB) could be confused with BLB necrotic spots, but they do not have defined borders, they tend to be more oblong in shape than round and they have a greenish border (Fig. 1 right).



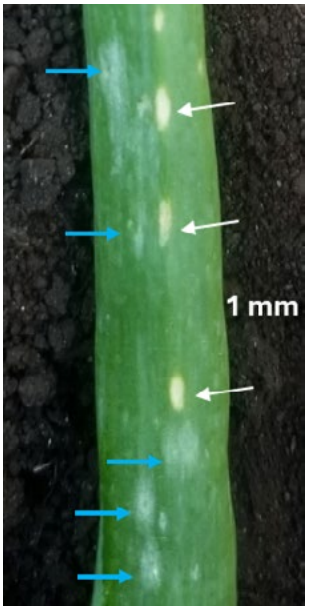


Figure 1. **Left: Botrytis leaf blight (BLB) necrotic spots** are bright yellow round spots with a defined border that become yellowish-white as they enlarge from pin-prick (yellow arrows) to 1-3 mm (white arrows). *Photo: C. Hoepting*. **Middle:** BLB necrotic spots do not have silvery halos like **BLB halo lesions (blue arrows)** do. Photo: C. Hoepting. **Right:** BLB necrotic spots may be confused with **initial lesions caused by Stemphylium leaf blight** on onion leaf. They are yellow and pin-prick in size like BLB necrotic spots, but unlike BLB necrotic spots, initial SLB spots do not have defined borders, they tend to be more oblong in shape than round and they have a greenish border. *Photo: Natalia Pineros-Guerrero*

continued on page 9

continued from page 8

BLB necrotic spots are caused by *Botrytis squamosa* (season-long) and *B. cinerea* (only early in season)

- **BLB is a two-phase disease that causes both halo lesions and necrotic spots.**
- **First phase BLB halo lesions. *B. squamosa* is only a weak pathogen of young, healthy onion leaves.** After a young onion leaf is infected and penetrated by *B. squamosa*, the onion leaf defends itself by rapidly (within 6-12 h of penetration) collapsing its cells around the pathogen. This contains the pathogen and results in tiny BLB halo lesions. The longer the periods of leaf wetness, the larger the BLB halo lesions. Spores of B. squamosa do not grow from lesions that occur on green living tissue.
- **First phase BLB necrotic spots.** *B. cinerea* cannot invade healthy onion tissue but causes lesions due to the release of pectolytic enzymes when the spores germinate on the leaf surface. This causes BLB necrotic spots. *B. cinerea* does not live and sporulate within the BLB necrotic spots. On occasion, Hay *et al.* have isolated *B. cinerea* from the surface of BLB necrotic spots.
- **Second phase BLB necrotic spots and blast.** *B. squamosa* invades older/mature leaf tissue more aggressively because it does not have the resistance response (rapid cell collapse to contain pathogen) as young healthy leaves.
  - This is why BLB necrotic spots increase in prevalence once outer leaf dieback and tipburn occur naturally during bulbing.
  - It also explains why BLB necrotic spots tend to be more concentrated towards leaf tips than leaf axils, because older leaf tissue is near the leaf tip.
  - *B. squamosa* can invade and sporulate in mature onion leaf tissue.
  - When 24 h periods of leaf wetness occur, rapid lesion and sporulation of B. squamosa can cause leaf "blast" and excessive leaf dieback.
- **BLB necrotic spots are not caused by SLB.** Several hundred leaves with BLB necrotic spots have been examined over the years at Cornell AgriTech. Only on rare occasions were spores of *S. vesicarium* or *Alternaria* spp. isolated from BLB necrotic spots on onion leaves.
- Interestingly another species identified as ***B. mali* has occasionally been associated with necrotic spots in NY** and shown to cause disease when inoculated to onion plants (Daniel Heck unpublished data).

BLB necrotic spots begin to increase from the third week of July until mid-August as plant foliage matures and generally continue to increase until the crop is lodged.

The threshold for BLB necrotic spots before yield reduction occurs requires further research

- In 2024 onion fungicide trial, yield reduction occurred when there was over 11.5% leaf dieback on August 8, when onions had 1.5-2" bulbs and tipburn starting. A level of 11.5% leaf dieback on August 8 corresponded to **26 BLB necrotic spots/leaf on July 25**. In this trial, the untreated had 79 BLB necrotic spots/leaf.
- In 2023 onion fungicide trial in Elba, **46 BLB necrotic spots/leaf on August 3** resulted in 50% green foliage on August 30, above which yield reductions could be expected. The untreated in this trial had 96 BLB necrotic spots/leaf.
- These thresholds for BLB necrotic spots at the end of July/early August that reduce yield assume that BLB necrotic spots are not controlled after this time.
  - If a grower had these levels of BLB necrotic spots at this time, but went on to control them, it may not result in a yield reduction.
- Generally, the number of BLB necrotic spots in commercial muck onion fields are much less than these levels (Table 1).
- Further research is warranted to figure out how many BLB necrotic spots are too many before yield is reduced.

Table 1. BLB necrotic spot pressure in commercial muck onion fields, CCE CVP Onion Scouting Program, 2023-2024 (Hoepting *et al*).

	No. BLB necrotic spots/leaf			
	At 1.5-2" bulbs, ttb*		Maximum, prior to last fungicide spray	
Year	Average	Range	Average	Range
2023 (18 fields)	11	2 - 45	26	6 - 68
2024 (12 fields)	7	1 - 17	15	2 - 36

* ttb: onion leaves have a tiny bit of tipburn.

continued on page 10

continued from page 9

Control of BLB necrotic spots

- Several FRAC groups have activity on BLB necrotic spots (Table 2).
- Growers should include a treatment with a minimum of good activity for the remainder of their fungicide sprays.
- Also, see 2025 Cornell Onion Fungicide "Cheat Sheet" for Leaf Diseases in New York (https://rvpadmin.cce.cornell.edu/uploads/doc_1216.pdf).

Table 2. Relative effectiveness of fungicides/FRAC groups for control of BLB necrotic spots, based on three on-farm fungicide trials, 2023 and 2024 (Hoepting *et al*).

Tank mix/FRAC Groups	Relative Performance	% Control
FRAC 3g Proline (a.i. prothioconazole)*, *** Viathon + Tilt + Bravo (3c + P07, 3c, M5)***	BEST: Excellent	>80%
Viathon + Tilt (3c + P07, 3c)**, *** Tilt (3a) + FRAC P07*** Luna Tranquility + Switch (7(1) + 9a, 9b + 12) Miravis Prime (7(4) + 12) + FRAC P07	Good-Very Good	65-79%
Bravo (FRAC M5)	Good	45-65%
Tilt (3a) Quadris Top (3b + 11) Inspire Super (3b + 9b)	Mediocre	40-50%
FRAC P07 (e.g. Rampart, Reveille)	Mediocre	40-55%
FRAC 9 (Scala, in Luna Tranquility, Switch, Inspire Super)	Poor-to-Mediocre	35%
FRAC 12 (in Miravis Prime, Switch)	Poor	20-30%
Rovral (FRAC 2)	Poor in Elba; Fail in Wolcott	25%

*Proline is not labelled in onion.
** Whether 3c has activity on BLB necrotic spots has been inconsistent in trials.
*** BLB halo lesions are not controlled and often increase over the nontreated.

Blueberry Pest Update

Anya Stansell, Small Fruit Specialist, CCE Harvest NY

For blueberries, the main pest of concern at this point is spotted wing drosophila.

Some growers have faced challenges this year due to drought stress on young plants, and a rogue hailstorm caused some damage on ripening fruit throughout the Central NY region. A late frost caused some green fruit loss in some regions, but blueberries compensate their sizing very well in response to frost damage.

The season has gone well, for most growers I've visited. Managing spotted wing drosophila (SWD) and mitigating drought losses in young plantings should be the top focus as we go into August.

For spotted wing drosophila, a weekly insecticide spray is necessary to keep populations down. Even with the heavy downpours of rain we occasionally get, products with spreader-sticker adjuvants seem to be holding up well. Populations in wild hosts such as honeysuckle, wild blackberry, and wild cherry are well established, creating a constant source of the pest in blueberry plantings.

The best control by far for SWD is offered by exclusion netting. I am seeing more growers adopt this technology, which suggests that we are getting more tradespeople able to help install the support structures. Exclusion netting is a good option for growers who are interested in organic, low-spray systems who have small plantings up to ½ acre in size. The cost for the structure and netting is roughly $30,000 per acre. Exclusion netting requires monitoring for SWD and the ability to apply insecticide in the event of an outbreak. The payoff is the potential to have no-spray berries late into the season.

To mitigate drought stress, growers have several options. Applying 3 inches woodchip mulch that has been allowed to compost for 9-12 months is the best practice. Similarly, using drip irrigation along the planting can greatly improve plant survival in the years after planting. I would recommend avoiding using black plastic landscape fabric as a mulch. The weed suppression is excellent, but it concentrates the heat of the sun and can cause severe root death in blueberry plants. 2025 has shown that even established plants can have their roots cooked by this black mulch.

References

Spotted Wing Drosophila Insecticide Quick Guide | 2025 | Greg Loeb, Anna Wallis, Laura McDermott, Peter Jentsch, Juliet Carroll—Cornell University.

Exclusion Netting for Spotted Wing Drosophila | 2022 | Chris Callahan—University of Vermont.

Upcoming Events

Niagara Region Summer Meeting, 2025

August 7, 2025 (Wednesday) | 5:30 pm - 8:00 pm
J. Hurtgam Farms, 3226 Ridge Rd (Rt 104), Ransomville, NY 14131

We're in for a treat! Prof. Steve Reiners is coming as a part of his pre-retirement speaking tour! Steve's a fantastic, down-to-earth speaker with extensive knowledge on horticultural techniques, fertility, varieties, and much more. Don't miss this event! Topics include "What exactly do NPK and other nutrients do inside the plants?", a pest/disease field walk, sweet corn variety trial, a tar spot primer, spraying best practices, and industry updates. Content will be relevant for organic, CNG, and conventional growers. Pizza dinner at 5:30 pm; meeting to follow.

DEC credits available: 1.25 in categories 1a, 23; 0.5 in categories 10, 21; and 0.25 CORE.

Contact Elizabeth Buck with questions, emb273@cornell.edu, 585-406-3419.

Cornell Vegetable Variety Showcase and Pathology Twilight Meeting

August 20, 2025 (Wednesday) | 5:00 pm - 8:30 pm
Homer C. Thompson Vegetable Research Farm, 133 Fall Creek Rd, Freeville, NY 13068

The event will include discussion of disease management in several crops and variety showcases for tomato, squash, cucumber, pepper, potato, groundcherry and goldenberry. Variety tasting will be available. The event concludes with a social hour with refreshments.

2.0 DEC Pesticide Credits will be available in categories 10, 1a, and 23. Find the agenda and registration form at https://cals.cornell.edu/events/cornell-vegetable-variety-showcase-and-pathology-twilight-meeting. Registration requested by August 18. Questions? Email Greg Vogel: gmv23@cornell.edu

Cornell Cooperative Extension
Cornell Vegetable Program

480 North Main Street
Canandaigua, NY 14424

VEGEdge
YOUR TRUSTED SOURCE FOR RESEARCH-BASED KNOWLEDGE

VEGEdge
YOUR TRUSTED SOURCE FOR RESEARCH-BASED KNOWLEDGE

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 increased frequency leading up to and during the growing season.

Contact Us

VEGETABLE SPECIALISTS

Elizabeth Buck | 585-406-3419 cell | emb273@cornell.edu
fresh market vegetables, weed management, soil health

Robert Hadad | 585-739-4065 cell | rgh26@cornell.edu
farm food safety, organic, business & marketing, fresh market vegetables

Christy Hoepting | 585-721-6953 cell | cah59@cornell.edu
onions, cabbage, broccoli, garlic, pesticide management

Julie Kikkert, Team Leader | 585-313-8160 cell | jrk2@cornell.edu
processing crops (table beets, carrots, peas, snap beans, sweet corn)

Lori Koenick | 585-469-5798 cell | lbk75@cornell.edu
fresh market vegetables, mushrooms, urban agriculture

Margie Lund | 607-377-9109 cell | mel296@cornell.edu
potatoes, dry beans, post-harvest handling and storage

Judson Reid | 585-313-8912 cell | jer11@cornell.edu
greenhouses/high tunnels, small farming operations, fresh market vegs

PROGRAM ASSISTANTS & SUPPORT

Camila Ichazo | lichazo@cornell.edu

Angela Ochterski | aep63@cornell.edu

Destiney Schultz | ds2422@cornell.edu

Kaitlyn Stearn | ks2545@cornell.edu

ADMINISTRATION

Peter Landre | ptl2@cornell.edu

Steve Reiners | sr43@cornell.edu

Cornell Cooperative Extension
Cornell Vegetable Program

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