

Downy Mildew Confirmed in Ohio Cucumbers

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Downy mildew was confirmed in a small cucumber field near West Salem, Wayne County, OH on July 5, 2006. The 0.25 acre field had not been sprayed with fungicides yet this season. Leaves had yellow areas typical of downy mildew on the upper surface and sporulation of the downy mildew pathogen on the lower surface. About 65% of the field was affected. Please see the Cucurbit Downy Mildew Photo Gallery in the NCSU North American Plant Disease Forecast Center website (<http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/pp/cucurbit/images.php>) for good pictures of symptoms. Downy mildew symptoms can be confused with those of other diseases, environmental damage and chemical burns. If you find what looks like downy mildew in cucurbit fields, send a sample (overnight delivery) for confirmation to Sally Miller or Melanie Ivey, Department of Plant Pathology, The Ohio State University, OARDC, 1680 Madison Ave., Wooster, OH 44691, ph. 330-263-3838, or to the C. Wayne Ellett Plant and Pest Diagnostic Clinic, OSU, Kottman Hall, 2021 Coffey Road, Columbus, OH 43210, ph. 614-292-5006 (c/o Nancy Taylor).

The predicted risk of downy mildew the past few days has been moderate to strongly moderate

(<http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/pp/cucurbit/forecasts/c060704.php>). Scouting efforts in cucurbit fields should be stepped up at this point and protectant fungicide (such as chlorothalanyl (Bravo, Equus, etc.) or EBDC (maneb, mancozeb) applications should be made or continued in northern Ohio. Growers may consider additional fungicides if the disease progresses and rainy conditions occur. Research conducted at Michigan State University suggests that Previcur Flex (1.2 pt.) + protectant alternated with Tanos 50 DF (8 oz.) + protectant provides good control of downy mildew in cucurbits. Please see (<http://www.ipm.msu.edu/cat06veg/v06-14-06.htm#1>) for current recommendations.