

Downy Mildew Confirmed in Michigan Cucumbers
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Downy mildew was confirmed in two slicing cucumber fields (16 acres) in SE Michigan (Monroe county) on June 9. The Michigan sighting was unexpectedly early, on field plants under low tunnels. It is not clear where the disease originated, and so far it has not been confirmed in other fields in Michigan. Cantaloupes growing nearby were not infected. There have been no confirmed reports of downy mildew on cucumber or other cucurbit crops in Ohio. As of Wednesday June 13 the predicted risk of downy mildew for SE Michigan and NW Ohio is "weakly moderate". The predictions can be found on the North American Plant Disease Forecast Center Cucurbit Downy Mildew website (<http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/pp/cucurbit/forecasts/c060613.php>><http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/pp/cucurbit/forecasts/c060613.php>).

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).

A "weakly moderate" risk means that under the current dry conditions, in the absence of any observed downy mildew, the spores of the downy mildew pathogen are not likely to move around for long distances. Cucurbit fields need to be carefully scouted for downy mildew, especially should rainy conditions occur or threaten. When the predicted risk is high and/or the disease is found in the field, a protectant fungicide such as chlorothalanil (Bravo, Equus, etc.) or EBDC (maneb, mancozeb) should be applied. Growers may consider additional fungicides if the disease progresses and rainy conditions persist. 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>><http://www.ipm.msu.edu/cat06veg/v06-14-06.htm#1> for current recommendations. Since the disease has already been found in Michigan, growers are recommended to begin fungicide applications at this time.