

Vegetable Pest Alert

August 13, 2022

Anthracnose of tomatoes and pepper: Anthracnose is the most prevalent fruit rot of tomato, pepper, and eggplant. Ripe and overripe tomato fruit are especially susceptible but the pathogen can infect green fruit with symptoms not developing until fruit begin to ripen. Spots on fruit initially are small, circular, and depressed. They can enlarge considerably over time, and may develop concentric rings. The center of anthracnose spots become dark as the fungus produces spore-containing structures

On pepper, it can infect on all stages of pepper fruit development. The disease is most common on red peppers that have a long ripening period.

The pathogen can be seed-borne and survives in the soil through the production of sclerotia. Rotate away from solanaceous plants for at least 2 years. Start with certified, disease-free seed and transplants. Plant in well-drained fields. Control solanaceous weeds. Most peppers are susceptible but North Star and Paladin were the least susceptible in one report. Apply fungicides preventively where anthracnose has been a problem.



Early symptoms of anthracnose on tomatoes (Photo: Meg McGrath, Cornell)

Cucurbit downy mildew: Downy mildew strain that affects cucumbers and cantaloups is in the area, but the strain of downy mildew that affects other cucurbit crops has not been reported in our region, not even close to our neighboring states. So, there is currently low risk of downy mildew for other cucurbits. DM-resistant cucumber varieties are available, which should provide a few extra weeks of harvest after susceptible varieties go down completely— resistant varieties include Bristol, Citadel, DMR401, NY264, and Espirit.

Squash vine borers trap capture continue to wind down this week; 3 in a farm Norwich, and 0 in a farm in Berlin.

Corn earworm (CEW). Trap capture was 0.57/night in a farm in Norwich; 3.16/night in Berlin, and 40/night (one night) in Shelton.

European corn borers (ECB). This week 2 ECB NY, 3 ECB IA, and 2 ECB hybrid moths were captured in a farm in Norwich; 5 ECB NY, 0 ECB IA and 0 ECB hybrid moths were captured in each trap set in Berlin.

Continue to be on the lookout for the following pests:

- Stemphylium gray leaf spot of tomato
- Gray mold /botrytis blight of tomato
- Bacterial wilt on pumpkins
- Cross-striped cabbage worm
- Cucurbit powdery mildew
- Bacterial canker on tomatoes
- Black rot in brassica crops
- Early blight, Septoria leaf spot, and leaf mold of tomatoes
- Leaf mold in high tunnel tomatoes
- Brassica flea beetle

[Upcoming Webinars on Sun Protective Products](#)

On these hot and dry days we are reminded that farmers, farm workers, landscapers, and gardeners are at a high risk for UV exposure and skin cancer. Effective sunscreen and ultraviolet protective clothing are important tools to help you stay safe while working outdoors.

To learn more about sun protection products and The Skin Cancer Foundation (SCF) Seal of Recommendation, check out the upcoming educational webinar series to be hosted by SCF. Details and registration information for these 30-minute, once monthly webinars can be found at <https://webinar.skincancer.org/>.

The Sun & Your Skin: What You Need to Know

- [Learn how to protect your skin from UV rays](#)
- [Understand the dangers of tanning](#)
- [Know how to spot skin cancer early](#)
- [5 ways to treat a sunburn](#)
- [Free skin cancer screenings are back](#)

This report is prepared by Shuresh Ghimire, UConn Extension. *The information in this document is for educational purposes only. The recommendations contained are based on the best available knowledge at the time of publication. Any reference to commercial products, trade or brand names is for information only, and no endorsement or approval is intended. UConn Extension does not guarantee or warrant the standard of any product referenced or imply approval of the product to the exclusion of others which also may be available. The University of Connecticut, UConn Extension, College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources is an equal opportunity program provider.*

