

Lettuce Advisory Committee Meeting

EREC, Belle Glade, Florida October 4, 2006

***Next meeting schedule for the first Wednesday in February
(Notes by Chris Miller)**

Staff Updates: Everglades Research & Education Center

Ken Pernezny:

This fall Florida is expected to be under the influence of El Nino. As a result, the weather will be cooler and wetter but without freezes. These types of environmental conditions support the development of bacterial leaf spot. The ideal temperature for *Xanthomonas campestris* pv. *vitians* is 70°F. Ken or Rick Raid should be contacted if this pathogen is detected. Ken recently tested 30 strains that infect lettuce in the Belle Glade area and all were sensitive to copper. A summary of his work was provided. Kocide 2000 resulted in a significantly lower disease rating than Mancozeb or Mancozeb + Kocide 2000. Romaine is most sensitive to this disease and actually became a severe problem in MI this summer.

Rick Raid:

1. Quilt-fungicide from Syngenta was tested on celery for *Cercospora* but also provided good *Rhizoctonia* (basal rot) control without spray coverage targeting the plant crown (the normal coverage requirement). He believes the same results may be seen on *Rhizoctonia* in lettuce. A summary of his work was provided
2. Nova- is a sterol inhibitor like Carbrio and Quadris. It was found to provide excellent control of bean rust and powdery mildew. Bravo was found to provide poorer control of the diseases. A summary of his work was provided
3. Phosphonics were very effective at controlling downy mildew last season when tank mixed with maneb. This blend should be rotated with other efficacious downy mildew fungicides such as: Reason, Previcur, Forum, Acrobat, etc. As always, check any plant back restrictions prior to use. A summary of his work was provided
4. Bacterial blight was not an issue last year due to the dry spring however there is an ever-increasing risk as the spring mix acreage increases since the pathogen can be seed borne and as the volume of used seed increases.
5. Trials this season will include beans, sweet corn & celery.

Russell Nagata & Gregg Nuessley:

Briefly discussed their efforts to examine host plant resistance to numerous insects such as cucumber beetles and armyworms. They have isolated 1-3 compounds that look promising and are exploring them further in crosses in their breeding program.

Alan Wright is a recent addition to the EREC. He is assessing nutrient requirements of crops grown on muck soil and developing management practices that minimize phosphorus inputs. Fertilizer placement studies are underway. A summary of his objectives was provided.

Dr. Guzman:

1. The relationship between lettuce yield, plant population and the amount of fertilizer applied was examined. He found that yields improved when fertilizer was maximized during poor growing conditions. He also found that during favorable growing conditions that fertilizer could be minimized and still produce satisfactory yields.

2. Typical lettuce growers plant two rows on beds that are three feet center to center. This provides a stand of 29,000 plants/acre and produces a yield of 57,000lb/acre. He suggested that planting three rows of lettuce on beds that are four feet center to center could increase yields. There would however be significant costs associated with this change, as equipment would have to be adjusted or purchased.

Staff Updates: Division of Plant Industry

Susan Halbert:

1. Pea leaf miners and CA lettuce aphid have been packed into California lettuce and are commonly found on lettuce shipped from that region. The aphid pest is red in color but is yet to establish itself in FL but is established in CA, CO, and Europe. The DPI Pest Alert was provided. Galen provided this info via e-mail some time ago.
2. Citrus Greening is common from Sarasota south. DPI is examining the psyllid vector.

Carlee Baker noted that the cause of watermelon vine decline is a whitefly transmitted Poty virus.

Ron Palumbo: FMC Product Update

1. Capture- has twice the half-life of other pyrethroids and cilantro has been added to the label.
2. Mustang- is water based and can be applied pre- or at-plant for wireworm control as an alternative to Diazinon. Cilantro has been added to the label.
3. Mustang Max- the corn label will be changing in the near future.
4. Aim- is synergistic with other herbicides but is not for use on grassy weeds and sedges. Rates are 0.5-2 oz/acre post-emerge.
5. Ranman- is a translaminar fungicide for management of water molds on tomato, potato & cucurbits and is not yet labeled on leaf for downy mildew.
6. Beleaf = Aria (in greenhouses)- is a translaminar insecticide with 14-21 day residual. Three applications per crop per year may be applied. The label will be revised by 1/1/7. This product should be rotated with other aphidicides. Rates are 2.4-2.8oz/acre giving respectively 14-21 days of activity. There is a 30 day plant back restriction on any crop not specifically listed on the label. It is safe on bees.

Neil Horum: GeoAg Solutions/UAP (geoagsolutions.com)

1. Citritrack- is a data collecting program primarily used in citrus and sugarcane. It can produce maps, graphs, bar codes and does payroll etc.
2. Land notes- is a program used to track GPS and produce “briefish” scouting reports & work orders. A subscription is required and info can be downloaded to phone or e-mail.

Mike Aertz: Atrazine Residue Issues

1. “Inadvertent residue tolerance” proposal for leaf was sent over the summer to EPA. A decision of acceptance is expected by 12/31/6.
2. In a land lease arrangement, the grower is responsible for any plant back violations and the landowner is not.

Three Star Lettuce: Ken DuBas (breeder) & Javier Saldana (grower): Growing Lettuce for Seed

1. Planning: monitor movement of aphid vector of Lettuce Mosaic Virus (LMV) and plant crop after aphid has left area
2. Plant & Farm
 - i. Use one row on 40 inch beds for easier mechanical harvest

- ii. Preventative sprays done weekly
- 3. Rouge: Done twice a week for LMV, disease, quality and seed color
 - 1. Black or white seeds are produced by the same variety
- 4. Pruning: The head and basal leaves are removed
- 5. Seed Harvest: Done mechanically at 85-90% cotton stage
- 6. Post Harvest: Test germination and for LMV