

Project #8747

Services to the Root, Bulb and Leafy Vegetable Sector

IPM delivery and diagnostics

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Duration of Project: May 1, 2005 – December 1, 2007



I. Brief Project Description

This is a service project that involves providing IPM delivery to the Bradford Area of Ontario, and support for IPM programs on root, bulb and leafy vegetables in other areas, as well as the diagnosis of insects, diseases and weeds for growers of root, bulb and leafy vegetables in Ontario.

The provision of timely forecasts and warnings of outbreaks of insect pests and diseases was a high priority with the Fresh Vegetable Growers of Ontario. This program for root, bulb and leafy vegetables was suggested as a pilot project, because the expertise was available for this sector of the vegetable industry. Some of the weather monitoring, disease forecasting and diagnosis services were provided by the Muck Crop Research Station in past years, but can no longer be provided without additional funding.

II. Project Objectives

1. *Disease & insect forecasting information for growers:*



- a) Program and download data loggers, collate and summarize information, run forecasting programs for diseases and insects, prepares summaries and alerts for distribution to growers. This includes producing an agriphone message with information on the risk of diseases such as downy mildew, botrytis and white rot of onions, Sclerotinia and leaf blights on carrots, Septoria on celery and downy mildew on lettuce as well as other diseases. Information on the emergencies and risk of onion maggot, carrot weevil, carrot rust fly, aphids and other insect pests.

Data loggers or automated weather stations in the Thedford/Grand Bend area and other areas in Essex Kent will be accessed on a regular basis and the disease and insect forecasting programs will be used for these regions, as well. Information will be relayed to growers in a means to be determined (agriphone or fax) in discussions with the growers and grower groups.

Support for integrated pest management programs – Assist in training and supervising summer students and scouts for integrated pest management programs as needed.

2. Identification and Diagnostic of diseases, insects and weeds.

a) Samples will be identified by sight and grower contacted within 2 days of receipt, and the grower will be notified of the firm or tentative diagnosis. Where culturing of a pathogen or consultation is required for an insect or weed, the grower will be notified as soon as possible. Additional information about the pest and recommendations for management and control will be provided where ever possible. (some pathogens, such as bacteria, can only be tentatively identified based on symptoms).