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## **VEGETABLE CROP UPDATE**

### VINE CROPS EDITION

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The downy mildew scouting program is now up and running. We have three OMAFRA students visiting 30 cucumber fields on a weekly basis. This is in addition to field visits made by the processing field men and scouting programs run by the ag supply outlets.

The 7-day forecast is calling for continued sunny, warm conditions. This is good news when it comes to downy mildew. Under these conditions DM spores have very low survival rates and are quickly killed by UV light and desiccation. The North Carolina Downy Mildew Disease Forecast predicts a low risk of spore survival and transport.

Under these weather conditions the preventative fungicide program can be extended to 10-14 days. To date, we are still recommending a Bravo/mancozeb program. Keep in mind, that a sudden change in the weather may require growers to tighten up the spray program or to switch to one of the downy mildew targeted fungicides.

While we do want to keep the spray bills as low as possible, I would rather see growers spend the money on an early preventative program and have the potential to stop spraying during harvest if the crop is clean at that time.

### **Downy Mildew Scouting Summary:**

The scouts aren't finding much. There is a fair amount of wind damage from Friday's storms, especially in the Norfolk area. Growers should be out looking for cucumber beetles. We have had a few fields nearing the threshold level of 0.5-1 beetle per plant. Beetles are most active during the mid-afternoon, so a lunch-time walk through the field is more likely to give an accurate picture of their populations.

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