

Vegetable Pest Alert

August 26, 2023

Cucurbit downy mildew (CDM) was detected in Middlesex County this week in the cucumber varieties 'Marketmore' and 'Wautoma'. CDM has been reported on pumpkin, butternut squash, spaghetti squash, cucumber, and cantaloupe in New Jersey. CDM isolates in Clade II infect cucumber and cantaloupe, however isolates in Clade I infect watermelon, pumpkin, and squash. We have only seen infection from Clad II in CT so far this year.

The list of preventative and targeted pesticides are listed in the [New England Vegetable Management Guide](#). Bristol (slicing cucumber), Citadel (pickling) are CDM resistant varieties for the current CDM races. A more complete list of resistant varieties is available on [Cornell Vegetables page](#).



Cucurbit downy mildew on upper and underside of cucumber leaf

Preventative materials effective against CDM:

- Chlorothalonil
- Mancozeb
- Copper (less effective than chlorothalonil or mancozeb but OMRI-listed options available and also effective against bacterial diseases)

Effective CDM-targeted materials include:

- Orondis
- Omega
- Ranman
- Zampro
- Zing! or Gavel
- Ariston, Curzate, Tanos
- Previcur Flex

Presidio, Revus, and Forum are currently **not** recommended due to pathogen resistance.

Allium leafminer (ALM)

Over the last several years, fall ALM adult activity has begun in early- to mid-September, so we anticipate a similar emergence time this year. We do not have an accurate model to allow us to predict the emergence of the fall flight, while there is a model to predict the spring flight.

Allium crops, including leek, onion, shallot, chives, and green onion are susceptible to this pest. Some species of wild onion and ornamental alliums may be hosts as well, but the full host range is currently unknown.

The larva mine the leaves, creating tunnels of damage as they eat. These tunnels provide good entryways for fungal and bacterial pathogens to cause more damage to the plant. Larva will move down to the bulb, where they pupate either in the plant or drop into the soil.

The removal of infected host plants and other allium residues from earlier harvested alliums is an important practice for reducing potential outbreaks in fall allium crops.

Insect exclusion netting or other types of row covers can effectively exclude ALM flies if securely applied before flight begins. Foliar chemical applications have also been shown to be effective for reducing ALM damage. Scorpion 35 SL (dinotefuran, Group 4A) has been the most effective at reducing damage from ALM in both NY trials and in Pennsylvania. Organic growers unable to use row cover are encouraged to use Entrust (spinosad, Group 5) at the 6 oz/acre rate mixed with a 1%-1.5% v/v solution of M-Pede (potassium salts of fatty acids) for better penetration of the waxy cuticle. See <https://nevegetable.org/crops/insect-control-14> for a list labeled pesticides for this pest.



Adults lay eggs in the top of an Allium leaf making punctures. Scout for characteristic oviposition marks, as displayed in the image.

Sweet corn pests

Corn earworm numbers are up again from last week, while European corn borer and fall armyworm trap counts remain low in the region. Trap counts at a farm in Berlin was 2.3 CEW moths per night keeping them on a 4-day spray schedule.

Continue to be on the lookout for the following pests that were covered in [the previous pest alerts \(2023\)](#):

- Cucurbit powdery mildew
- Phytophthora blight, root rot and crown rot
- Bacterial canker of tomatoes
- Alternaria leaf spot on brassica crops
- Cross-striped cabbageworm
- Early blight and Septoria leaf spots on tomato

- Pepper and tomato anthracnose
- Verticillium wilt in eggplant and tomatoes

Informational Video for FARMERS on Local Food for Schools Incentive program

Hello farmers!

We know late summer into fall might be the worst time to get your attention, but this is for money that could benefit you beginning **this fall AND set you up for next growing season, So...** have you heard of the Local Food for Schools Incentive program? New for districts across the state starting this Fall, there is \$1.8 million dollars for local purchasing for school in CT to buy local and CT Grown.

The Local Food For School Incentive Program (LFSIP) has launched and almost every district in the state is getting a **minimum of \$2k and upwards of \$25K for larger districts to BUY CT Grown**

[We created this 7 min video that lays out what you need to know to get informed on how this money works, how you can get in on it and resources to help you along.](#)

Selling to schools has less barriers that you may think:

- No Bid, no contract relationships
- Small purchases can be accommodated
- Fair price points and reasonable food safety requirements
- [Here is a LIST](#) of District, contact info and \$ amounts
- For detailed information on LFSIP --> [More info HERE](#).

Resources below that are mentioned in the video!

- [Click HERE for an email outreach Template](#) to send to a District you might want to work with.
- [FAQs on Selling to a School](#) in Connecticut, K-12
- [Conversation Guide for Farmers and School Buyers](#)
- [Information on the 'Local Food for School Incentive Program](#) (LFSIP) and an [FAQ on LFSIP](#)

Visit [Put Local on Your Tray](#) to:

→ List your Farm on the [Farm to School Directory](#)

It's a good time to consider diversifying your market into some small-scale wholesale! High efficiency, potential for higher gross per acre, less customers to manage, ability to grow crops you like/improve efficiency with.

We are here to help!

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This report is prepared by Shuresh Ghimire, UConn Extension. All photos in this publication are credited to Shuresh Ghimire unless otherwise noted.

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