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Vegetable Pest Alert

Updates and Scouting Reports from the Field — July 5th, 2025

What to be on the lookout for…

Salt Marsh Caterpillars

Salt marsh catterpillars are occasional pests but can do some real damage on onions and brassicas. Broadleaf weeds are the normal host plants, but larvae commonly disperse from these late in the growing season to damage vegetable and field crops. Other vegetable hosts include asparagus, bean, beet, carrot, celery, corn, lettuce, pea, tomato, turnip, and probably others.

Larvae are defoliators. Young larvae feed in clusters and skeletonize foliage. Older larvae are solitary and eat large holes in leaf tissue. They tend to be more damaging to fall crops. Sprays of Bacillus thuringiensis (Bt) or spinosad will control them.

Salt marsh caterpillar on broccolini. Photo: Susan Mitchell, Cloverleigh Farm.

Fulvia Leaf Mold in High Tunnel Tomatoes

Leaf mold on tomato plants in a high tunnel. Photo: Marissa Schuh, UMN Extension.

The recent hot, humid weather in combination with tomato plants rapidly growing into dense plantings creates the perfect environment for fungal diseases like leaf mold. It first appears as yellow or pale green spots that are not defined by leaf veins or margins. On the underside of leaves, olive green mold spots also forms. In more extreme cases, blossom and fruit infections can occur. Infected blossoms will turn black and fall off. For fruit, the stem will turn black and the leaf mold will progress to cause sunken, dry and leathery fruit rot.

To control leaf mold, it is critical to improve airflow and reduce humidity by venting, pruning, and checking placement of fans.

Removing infected foliage can slow the spread of disease from leaf to leaf and plant to plant. At the end of the crop cycle, remove and destroy all plant residue. Sanitize the tunnel before the next season and start with certified, disease-free seed or treat seed with hot water bath.

Squash Stem Splitting

Cucurbit crops are susceptible to stem splitting under two main conditions. First, if young plants experience cold temperatures when spring temperatures dip below 60°F for several days, cold damage can cause the stem to split on one side. Stem splitting can also be a result of sudden, rapid growth resulting from high temperatures, increased irrigation or high fertility. In severe cases, the split can lead to wilted, snapped or broken stems that are fatal to the plant. Growers should consider applying a fungicide or bactericide so that the damaged plant tissues don't become infected in the healing process.

Left Image: The stem splitting on this crop of newly transplanted summer squash is likely a result of high temperatures. Right Image: a photo of the same crop of summer squash, taken one week later. Luckily, conditions have been favorable for healthy plant growth and the split has started to heal, developing a corky appearance. Photo: N.Davidow, UConn Extension.

Sweet Corn Pests - Trap Count Update

European Corn Borer (ECB) adults. Photo: USDA Cooperative Extension, Bugwood.org

Corn Earworm (CEW) Moth. Photo: David Handley

Fall Armyworm (FAW) Moth. Photo: Kansas State University

Location	CEW*	ECB - NY	ECB - IA	ECB - III	FAW
Glastonbury A	-	0	0	0	-
Glastonbury B	1.3	0	0	0	2
Berlin	0.5	-	-	-	-
Shelton	2.5	1	0	0	0

*CEW moth count is per night.

See the New England Vegetable Management Guide for management strategies for all sweet corn insect pests.

Continue to be on the lookout for the following:

Beet Leafminers, Colorado Potato Beetle, Striped and Spotted Cucumber Beetles, Brassica and Solanaceous Flea Beetles, Cabbage Maggot, Onion Thrips, Squash Bugs, Squash Vine Borer, Sweet Corn Pests, Tarnished Plant Bugs, and more.

See Previous Pest Alert Messages On Our Website

New Resource: Managing Flood Risks on Farms

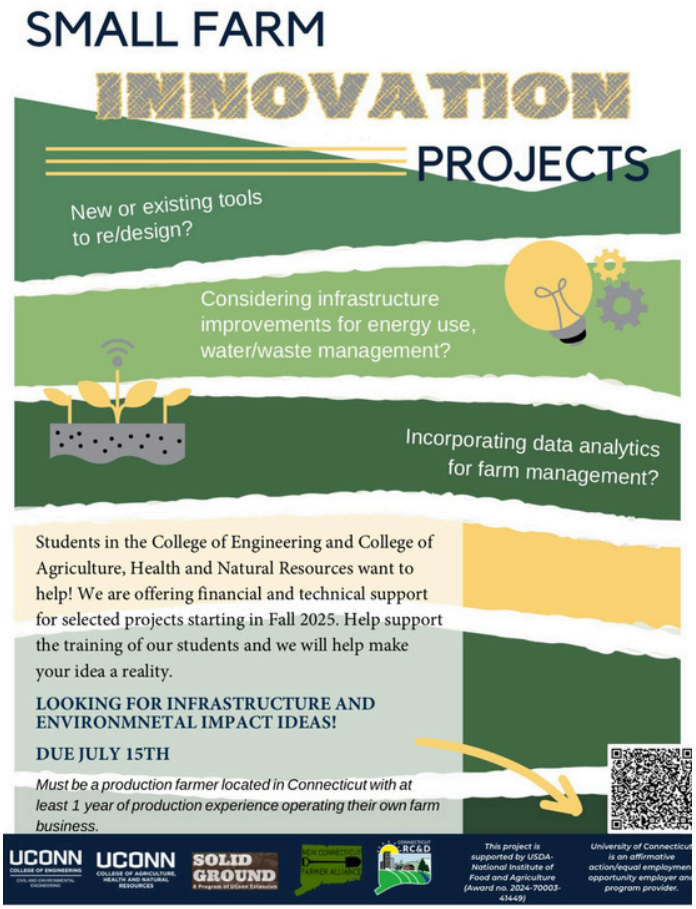
Our team at UConn Extension has put together a factsheet to help you navigate flood risks on your farm. From preparing before a big storm to dealing with the aftermath, this short guide covers practical steps to help protect your crops, soil, and equipment. With more extreme weather events happening across the region, it's a good time to think about how to reduce damage and recover safely if flooding occurs.

Read the factsheet: Managing Flood Risks on Farms

Want the New England Vegetable Management Guide and/or Pest ID Guide at your fingertips?

Printed copies of the New England Vegetable Management Guide and Pest ID Guide are still available for purchase. Visit the **UConn Marketplace** to place your order.

You can also **download the Pest ID Guide** here!



Small Farm Innovation Projects

This program, in partnership with the UConn School of Engineering, pairs farmers with student engineering teams to encourage experimentation and adoption of new techniques that can improve farm productivity and sustainability.

Especially looking for the following types of ideas:

- Farm infrastructure: water, wastewater, roadways, culverts, stormwater management
- Farm store related: site design, parking, traffic flow, drainage
- Environmental impacts: air pollution issues, composting, lagoons, other wastewater management
- Brownfield remediation: for urban agriculture
- Energy siting: possibly for solar or wind

Submit your idea by July, 15th!

Contact Information

Shuresh Ghimire, Vegetable Extension Specialist: shuresh.ghimire@uconn.edu

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Vegetable IPM Office Phone Number: 860-870-6933
Vegetable IPM Cell Phone Number: 959-929-1031 (feel free to text/iMessage photos)
Vegetable IPM Pest Alert Audio Recording: 860-870-6954

Stay in touch with us

- **Share what you see:** We're here to assist with identification, management strategies, and guidance on best practices. Send us a photo/message via text at 959-929-1031.
- **Facebook Group:** UConn Extension moderates a private Facebook group specifically for commercial vegetable producers. It is a space to share photos of insects and diseases you find in your fields, ask questions, share ideas, and stay engaged with growers across the state. **Click here to join:** "UConn Extension – Vegetable IPM"
- **Schedule a Consultation:** Would you benefit from meeting with an Extension Specialist at your farm to provide insight on pest or disease identification, management strategies, and more? If so, please contact our Vegetable Extension Specialist, Shuresh Ghimire, to set up a farm visit. Contact him at shuresh.ghimire@uconn.edu or 860-870-6933.

Thank you for reading!

This report was prepared by Nicole Davidow, Outreach Coordinator, and Shuresh Ghimire, Commercial Vegetable Specialist, UConn Extension.

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