What’s new?

Regent Insecticide Registered for Wireworm Control in Potatoes

Potato growers have a new tool to control wireworms and protect yields with the recent federal registration of Regent insecticide from BASF for use in potatoes.

“Wireworms are one of the worst soil pests for potato growers,” said Richard Wariner, BASF product manager. “Regent helps protect seedpieces and tubers from wireworm damage, preserving yields and quality, and provides growers with the potential for high returns on their investment. In addition, Regent offers growers an alternative mode of action that helps manage potential wireworm resistance.”

Potatoes join corn on the Regent label, Warriner added. “For the past decade, Regent has been a proven tool for controlling corn rootworm as an in-furrow treatment in field corn. The active ingredient in Regent, fipronil, has a long track record of strong performance in a diverse range of markets, including animal health and structural pest control.”

Regent can be put out in-furrow at planting in a dust-free liquid formulation that eliminates the need for special equipment and offers growers the conveniences of a low-use rate.

Potato growers can expect the product to be available in all major potato-growing regions of the United States in time for next season.

For more information about Regent insecticide and other BASF crop protection products, visit: www.agproducts.basf.com.

Mention of trade or brand names is for clarity and information only; it does not imply endorsement of the product to the exclusion of others, nor does it guarantee the standard of the product. This article was taken from Spudman.

Syngenta Names Two New Fungicides

Syngenta Crop Protection announced brand names for its newest fungicides, both of which target diseases that often develop on vegetables and fruits during the growing season. These two products, as well as other new technologies and best practices, will be shown at Syngenta plot tours taking place this summer and fall.

Revus, a foliar fungicide, is intended for use as a preventive spray against downy mildew diseases on lettuce, brassica crops, onions, grapes and cucurbits. Revus Top will control late blight and early blight on potatoes and tomatoes. The fungicide bonds to the wax layer of plants, providing Revus and Revus mixes consistent disease control even under extreme weather conditions.

The second of the new fungicides, Inspire, uses a triazole mixture proven effective in other countries. Inspire and Inspire mixtures will provide broad spectrum control of leaf spots and powdery mildews while acting as resistance management tools in the pome fruit and vegetable industries. The Knowledge Exchange Site plot tours are being held nationwide. The events are designed to bring growers, pest control advisors and other key influencers together with Syngenta personnel to foster a true educational and informational exchange. For information on the plot nearest you, call (866) 796-4368.

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NCSU Pumpkin Field Day, Waynesville, NC

NCSU will be hosting a field day of their pumpkin variety trial on October 12 at 2 PM at the Mountain Research Center in Waynesville, NC. Over 25 varieties of all shapes, sizes and colors. For a map of the station location, visit: www.ncagr.com/research/locations.htm.
**Question of the Week**

**Q:** Are there any recommendations for planting potatoes in the fall? Can it be successful? -C.R.

**A:** On a large scale, generally a “fall crop” of potatoes would be planted about 110 days, or the number of days to maturity for the variety that you are planting, before the first frost. However, many gardeners swear that potatoes planted in the fall and harvested in early spring are the best potatoes that you will grow, but they do take some extra work.

**What are the advantages of fall planted potatoes?**

One of the advantages of fall planted potatoes are that they have an leg up on the weeds in the spring. The potatoes do their own weed control by growing faster and shading out weeds. Another advantage of the fall planted potatoes is that they beat the insect pests too. Potatoes will be ready to harvest before the insects show up to eat them. Generally the spring months have natural irrigation (1” of rain a week), as well.

**When should I plant fall potatoes?**

After your summer crops have all been harvested, start preparing the soil for the potatoes. They can be planted until the soil is too hard or cold to work anymore.

**How do I plant them?**

Once the soil is nice and loose, dig deep rows (8-10”). Or you can dig a shallower row and then hill up the potatoes once they are planted. The important addition to the furrow for the fall crop seems to be dead leaves, grass, pine needles, mulch or straw. Four or five inches of this material in the furrow should do it. Next, set your seed pieces on top of this plant matter. Then cover the potatoes with another layer of the organic mulch. Then fill in the row with soil.

During the winter months, the organic mulch will decay and generate heat as it breaks down. This provides a warm environment for the potato roots to begin to grow. As soon as the soil and weather warms up in the spring, the shoots will sprout out of the ground. The plant already has a good root system to support the growth of the shoot and leaves. Soon, you’ll be harvesting the first tubers of the season along with your first garden peas.


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**Weather Report**

Relief from our recent hot spell looks like it’s on the way. High temperatures for the next week in East TN will be in the low 80’s, with low temperatures dipping down into the 50’s.

West TN is seeing some storms today and more on the way tomorrow across the state. Temperatures in the west for the next week will be much as the same as in East TN. Middle TN is also getting some rain in the next two days. Temperatures will cool off a bit with the rain, but then heat back up into the mid-80’s by the weekend.

Daytime lows will stay mostly in the 60’s with a couple days reaching the 50’s.

Folks on the Plateau will be enjoying high temperatures in the 70’s and lows just shy of the 40’s.

After the storm system clears out, the rest of the week will have plenty of sun. Sounds like perfect weather for all of the corn mazes and pumpkin patches that are in full swing.

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**Crop Report**

It’s a good year if you’re a pumpkin growers with pumpkins in TN! The calls continue for folks from within and outside of the state looking for pumpkins to buy in large quantities.

Last week’s edition of VegNet from the Ohio State University Extension warns of sunburn on ripe pumpkins in the field. They say pumpkins without irrigation and certain varieties seem more susceptible but all fruit can be affected. In some Ohio fields, damage has ranged from 5-10% to as high as 20%. They recommend that if harvest is not in your immediate future, you still should maintain foliage cover with your disease control program in order to protect your fruit from the sun. The additional cost for more fungicide applications should be taken into consideration. Where the foliage can no longer provide protection from the sun, OSU Extension says growers should consider harvest in the next few days.

Sunscald on pumpkin. Photo courtesy of Dan Egel, Purdue University.
Upcoming Events

Haygrove “Grower to Grower” Tunnel Tour, October 5, 2007, Dayton, VA
The best way to shorten your learning curve is to see season extension for yourself and learn from people who have “been there, done that”. Growers will share a wealth of real world, practical knowledge at this meeting. For details, visit: www.tunnelbuzz.com/us.html.

Produce Marketing Association Fresh Summit, October 12-15, 2007, Houston, TX
For more information, visit: www.pma.com/freshsummit.

Sunbelt Ag Expo- 30th Anniversary Show, October 16-18, 2007, Moultrie, GA
For more information visit www.sunbeltexpo.com or call 229.985.1968.

NCSU Growing and Marketing Local Foods Workshop Series, October 17, 24 and 31 and November 7 and 14, 2007, Roxboro, NC
This workshop was designed to address growing and marketing local foods. Topics in the series will include Buying Locally to Promote the Local Food Concept, How the Energy Outlook is Raising the Stakes for Local and Organic Food Production, Staggered Planting and Season Extension Techniques, Organic Vegetable Production in North Carolina, and Starting and Managing Your Produce Enterprise: Marketing, Post-harvest Handling, Insect and Disease Identification and Control. The cost for the entire series is $25.00 per person. This includes lunch during the first session and a notebook with workshop materials. No discounts for those who don’t fully participate. Pre-registration is required to guarantee you a seat. For a copy of the program, pre-registration form, and a map of the location, contact Carl Cantaluppi at 919-603-1350 or e-mail at carl_cantaluppi@ncsu.edu or Mike Lanier at 919-245-2050 or e-mail at mlanier@co.orange.nc.us or visit http://durham.ces.ncsu.edu/index.php?page=events&event_id=9938.

Deep South Fruit & Vegetable Conference & Trade Show, December 5-6, 2007, Mobile, AL
For more information, contact John Braswell (phone 601.403.8939, email braswell@ext.msstate.edu) or visit: www.deepsouthfruitveg.com.

National Potato Council Seed Seminar, December 6-8, 2007, Branson, MO
The National Potato Council will hold its annual seed seminar at the Chateau on the Lake in Branson, Mo. For more information, contact Hollee Alexander at hollee@nationalpotatocouncil.org or (202) 682-9456.

International Irrigation Show, December 9-11, 2007, San Diego, CA
For details, call 703.536.7080 or visit http://www.irrigation.org.

Tennessee Fruit and Vegetable Association Convention, December 9-11, 2007, Nashville Airport Marriott, Nashville, TN

22nd Annual Southeast Vegetable and Fruit Expo, December 12-13, 2007, Myrtle Beach, SC
Contact Cathy Price at 919.334.0099 or fax 919.877.0940 or visit: www.ncvga.com for more information.

Application of Precision Agriculture for Fruits & Vegetables, January 6-9, 2008, Orlando, FL
The event will be held at the Gowanover Resort in downtown Disney World. For more information, including a list of discussion topics, visit http://www.precisionag2008.com or e-mail iinfo@precisionag2008.com.

Southeast Regional Fruit and Vegetable Conference, January 10-13, 2008, Savannah, GA
For more information, contact Rebecca Smith (phone 877.994.3842 or visit: www.sfvga.org.

For more information, visit the SAWG website: http://www.sawg.org.

NOTE: Starting in October, SPROUTS will be published on a monthly basis. Weekly issues will resume in the spring. Thanks for reading!