

## MANAGEMENT OF POWDERY MILDEW AND PHYTOPHTHORA FRUIT ROT, TWO IMPORTANT CUCURBIT DISEASES

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### ABSTRACT

Powdery mildew is the primary foliar disease of cucurbits: it occurs every year throughout New York. Ways growers can reduce the amount of fungicide used and/or the cost of their fungicide program without a reduction in disease control were identified through research conducted in 1997. The 'standard' fungicide program tested was Bravo Ultrex applied on a 7-day schedule plus three applications of systemic fungicides (Nova, Benlate, Nova) applied on a 14-day schedule. Equivalent control, at a lower cost, was obtained by substituting copper fungicides (Kocide or Champ) for Bravo and by applying Bravo on a 14-day schedule. All fungicide programs were started after disease detection. Copper (Kocide) and sulfur (Microthiol) applied alone on a 7-day schedule were quite effective on upper leaf surfaces and moderately effective on lower (under) leaf surfaces.

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