

## VEGETABLE IPM DEVELOPMENT FINAL REPORT 2001

Title: Further Additions to the Vegetable MD Online Web Page on Identifying and Managing Diseases of Vegetable Crops in New York

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Grant type and location: Public and Extension education; based in the Department of Plant Pathology, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York

### **Abstract:**

Vegetable MD Online web page was expanded during 2001 to serve as a valuable resource for the identification and management of diseases of vegetable crops occurring in New York and in the Northeast. The site has received attention by extension specialists, growers, and homeowners in New York and literally throughout the world. Numerous requests were received to use material and photographs used throughout the site. The site has added over 100 new images, has been listed by several web search engines, and has been added to several University sites as a major resource.

### **Significance, Results, and Discussion:**

#### **I. Web site recognition:**

Vegetable MD Online was successfully launched in 2000 with the use of NY State IPM funds. The site has been registered at Cornell and is maintained in the Plant Pathology Department at Ithaca. The site has been publicized by media releases, referenced in NARES manuals, in the Cornell Vegetable Pest Management Guidelines, and at numerous grower meetings. The following recognition was received during 2001, and is one measure of the significance of the project.

#### **A. Search Engines**

- Selected as one of the best educational resources on the WWW by The American University Net Inc. web site for use by educational needs at the high school and college levels. Referenced under Agriculture as Agriculture Indexes, Archives and Digital Libraries (<http://www.americanuniversity.net/>)
- Web-Agri – The Agricultural Search Engine (<http://www.web-agri.com/>)
- The Librarians Information Online Network, a Specialized Subject Indexes and Search Engines (<http://www.sldirectory.com/searchf/search4.html>)

#### **B. Horticulture, Vegetable, and Small farm Web Sites**

- Sustainable Practices for Vegetable Production in the South  
Listed under WWW Resources (<http://www.cals.ncsu.edu:8050/sustainable/peet/>)

- Small Farm Project at Cornell University  
[http://www.cals.cornell.edu/agfoodcommunity/afs\\_temp3.cfm?topicID=299](http://www.cals.cornell.edu/agfoodcommunity/afs_temp3.cfm?topicID=299)
- See under Production IPM or Vegetable Production -Cornell Resources
- Cornell Cooperative Extension - Initiatives for Agriculture – Production Agriculture – Vegetables  
([http://www.cals.cornell.edu/agfoodcommunity/afs\\_temp3.cfm?topicID=299](http://www.cals.cornell.edu/agfoodcommunity/afs_temp3.cfm?topicID=299))
- Garden Resources from Department of Horticulture  
(<http://www.hort.cornell.edu/gardening/>)
- Department of Horticulture – Vegetables  
(<http://www.hort.cornell.edu/commercialvegetables/>)

## **II. Web site additions to the Left Hand Topic Banners:**

### **A. Diseases by Crops**

New fact sheets were added including “Phytophthora Blight of Cucurbits” and “Virus Problems of Sweet Corn”.

### **B. News Articles and Disease Alerts**

This Topic Banner was rearranged into more direct topics by general or crop categories and several news items were authored in 2001. All Vegetables – Important Vegetable Diseases for the Home Vegetable Garden, and specific articles for Cucurbits – 2, plus Calendar of Major Cucurbit Diseases; Pepper – 3; Potato – 1; and Tomato – 1.

### **C. Virus Weed Hosts/Rotation Lists**

A Checklist of Major Weeds and Crops as Natural Hosts of Plant Viruses in the Northeast was added in 2001. Weed hosts for virus diseases are arranged by botanical plant family with common name, scientific name, life cycle, and the viruses involved listed. Another feature is the link provided to photographs (provided by the developer) of some of the most important weed reservoirs for plant viruses in the Northeast. Arrangements were made with the authors of the textbook, Weeds of the Northeast (Cornell University Press) to include page reference numbers and selected color photographs from the book.

The rotational list of crops for disease management, originally listed as a PDF file, was added as a downloadable file in this Banner Topic.

### **D. Resistant Varieties**

Tables of resistant varieties were added for Cucumber/Pickles, Muskmelon, Specialty Melons, Pumpkin, Watermelon, Yellow Squash, and Zucchini squash.

## **E. Diagnostic Keys**

This section will be added early in 2002.

## **III. Impact of the Project on Grower Pest Management Practices**

Although it is difficult to quantify the impact that a web site can have on individual grower practices, we feel that this web site is probably one of the most useful tools for managing farm production practices and decision-making efforts. Beginning with up-to-date disease identification and management practices, we have added several key components for sustainable agricultural practices. These include many new disease and weed images, the most complete listing of weeds and crops as sources for plant viruses affecting vegetable crops in the Northeast US, crop rotational guidelines, a list of common diseases for home vegetable gardeners, and lists of crops with sources of disease resistance. With ongoing updates and new planned additions, this resource will continue to be meaningful agricultural reference, readily accessible to growers and homeowners alike. (T. A Zitter, submitted December 19, 2001)