

Pepper Production in NJ

Bob Muth

Farmer

Gloucester County
New Jersey



Pepper Production

- NJ produces 3,500 acres annually
- Crop value is about \$22,000,000 annually
- NJ ranks 5th in production
CA, FL, GA, MI are top producers in that order

*Information from USDA National Ag Statistics Service

Most of the Production is Green Bell Peppers



- Either Single or Double Rows on a raised bed with plastic mulch and drip irrigation
- About 60-70% of the acreage is stake culture
- Main varieties: 'Paladin', 'Aristotle', 'Revolution' (due to Phytophthora crown rot resistance or intermediate resistance), 'Camelot' is also still grown due to good fruit quality.

Peppers on Plastic Mulch and Staked

Single Row on Plastic
Not Staked



Double Row on Plastic
Staked

'Paladin'



'Camelot'



'Marquis' on Silver Mulch October 24, 2003



'Marquis' 6-7" fruit



Field on October 24, 2003 with Floating Row Cover



Under the Row Cover



Other Production Aspects...

- **Weed Control:**
 - NJ has a Special Local Needs Label 24c for Dual Magnum to control annual grasses, yellow nutsedge, galinsoga, and certain other broadleaf weeds. We also use Command and Devrinol. Many growers use gramoxone between the plastic beds applied with a shielded sprayer
- **NJ Fertilizer Recommendations:**
 - Pre-plant application uses a 1-1-2 or 1-1-3 ratio fertilizer carrying 50 pounds of nitrogen per acre
 - Through the drip system apply 1 week after transplanting and every 3 weeks thereafter for a total of up to 6 applications (depends on soil type).

Other Production Aspects...

- **Diseases:**
 - Phytophthora blight is the top disease in the state for pepper
 - Late season fruit rots are also a problem, Anthracnose (especially in fall 2006) and bacterial soft rots
- **Insects:**
 - European Corn Borer, Aphids, Thrips, Stink Bugs, Mites, and Fall Worms are the top pests

Phytophthora Crown Rot



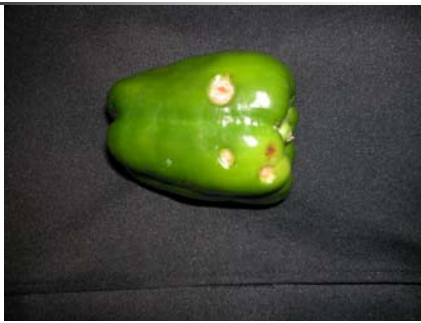
Stem infection traveling to lateral stems from crown

Phytophthora infection in field



This field had standing water back up after a heavy rainstorm and the disease spread like wildfire up the rows.

Anthracnose Fruit Rot from Fall of 2006



Harvesting

- Green peppers are generally harvested every 10-15 days
- Some large growers are using harvest aids for picking pepper
- Using piece work for improving labor to harvest

Harvest Aid for Peppers



Vegetable Farm in Swedesboro, NJ

Vegetable Entomology



Dr. Jerry Ghidui
Rutgers Cooperative
Extension
Vegetable
Entomologist

Rutgers Vegetable IPM Staff



Joe Mahar, Coordinator

Any Questions ???

■ Thank you for attending this presentation

■ *Bob Muth*