



# PLANT DISEASE AND INSECT ADVISORY

Entomology and Plant Pathology  
Oklahoma State University  
127 Noble Research Center  
Stillwater, OK 74078



Vol. 6, No. 11

Website: <http://entopl.okstate.edu/Pddl/advisory.htm>

May 10, 2007

## Onion Disease and Crop Development Update Jim Shrefler, Area Extension Horticulture Specialist

Onion crops observed in Atoka, Osage and Hughes County are progressing well. However, there have been observations of plant development problems and disease infestation that can potentially reduce yield and quality. Regarding developmental problems, extensive bolting of onions planted from bare-rooted transplants has been observed in several varieties including Yellow Granex and 1015-Y. This is not a growth abnormality but, rather, it is a shift to the reproductive growth mode. It results from onion plants being exposed to certain temperature regimes after becoming larger than approximately pencil-diameter in size. Bolting was probably caused by conditions the plants were exposed to while in the transplant nursery or possibly following transplanting.



In Atoka, Purple Blotch disease caused by the fungus *Alternaria porri* was identified on onions two weeks ago. Because of the continued rainy conditions, onions are at risk of increased infection by purple blotch as well as infection by another common disease, Downy Mildew, which is caused by *Peronospora destructor*. Under the extended wet conditions we are experiencing in parts of the state these diseases are very likely to cause severe damage to onion foliage that is left unprotected.

Fungicide application is recommended to protect onion plantings from these diseases. Suggested fungicides for the control of these diseases in onions include several options. Fungicides that were found effective on both of these diseases in onion production areas

outside of Oklahoma include Azoxystrobin (Quadris), Chlorothalonil (Bravo, Daconil), EBDC fungicides (Dithane, Manzate, Penncozeb and others), Pyraclostrobin (Cabrio) and Pyraclostrobin + Boscalid (Pristine). Iprodione (Rovral) is a good choice if Purple blotch is the

primary concern or if symptoms have already been observed on plants. Check fungicide labels carefully for Pre Harvest Intervals and for fungicide rotations that are recommended to reduce the risk of disease resistance to fungicide products.

When applying fungicides to control these diseases it is important to obtain good spray coverage of foliage. Again, follow fungicide product labels regarding recommended regarding gallon per acre spray volumes, spray adjuvants, and application frequencies.

Details on these onion diseases can be found at: [www.ext.colostate.edu/pubs/CROPS/02941.html](http://www.ext.colostate.edu/pubs/CROPS/02941.html)

---

Dr. Richard Grantham  
Director, Plant Disease and Insect Diagnostic Laboratory

Oklahoma State University, in compliance with Title IV and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Executive Order of 11246 as amended, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and other federal laws and regulations, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, disability, or status as a veteran in any of its policies, practices or procedures. This includes but is not limited to admissions, employment, financial aid, and educational services.

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Robert E. Whitson, VP, Dean, and Director for Agricultural Programs, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Oklahoma. This publication is printed and issued by Oklahoma State University as authorized by the Dean of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources.