

Title: Evaluation of Insect Damage in Non Bell Peppers Compared to Bell Peppers - 2008

Personnel: Joanne Whalen and Bill Cissel, University of Delaware

Cooperator: Bob and Chris Horsey –Laurel, DE

Plot Design: Four types of peppers were planted on June 19 on a commercial farm located near Laurel, DE. The varieties included Paladin (bell pepper), Bounty (banana pepper), Cherry Bomb (cherry pepper) and Sparky (jalapeno pepper). Single row plots 50 foot long were replicated 4 times in a randomized complete block design.

Methods: All plots were evaluated on a weekly basis from June 28 through August 7 for the number of green peach aphids and European corn borer egg masses per leaf. No insecticides were applied and maintenance fungicides were applied on a weekly basis starting at flowering.

Results:

Treatment	% European Corn Borer Damaged Fruit		% Beet Armyworm Damaged Fruit	
	Aug 12	Aug 25	Aug 12	Aug 25
Paladin	0.93a	5.95a	5.92a	1.02a
Cherry Bomb	0.00a	1.00bc	0.00a	0.12a
Sparky	0.61a	0.13c	0.00a	0.63a
Bounty	0.17a	2.43b	0.17a	1.54a

Means followed by the same letter are not significantly different (P=0.05; Tukey's mean separation test).

Comments: Leaf feeding insect pressure (aphids, beet armyworm) was light throughout the season and no differences were found between varieties. Overall, corn borer pressure was low early in the season and increased by the end of August. At the final evaluation, the percentage of corn borer damaged fruit was significantly lower in the non –bell plots compared to the bell pepper plots. This data provides data to support that a higher ECB threshold could be used to time sprays in non-bell peppers compared to bell peppers.