

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

Personnel: Joanne Whalen and Bill Cissel, University of Delaware

Cooperator: David Marvel – Harrington, DE

Plot Design: Four types of peppers were planted on June 20 on a commercial farm located near Harrington, 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 1 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		
	Aug 9	Aug 15	Aug 24
Paladin	5.10 a	3.25a	1.75a
Cherry Bomb	0.00b	0.17a	0.22a
Sparky	0.00b	0.00a	0.16a
Bounty	0.00b	0.00a	0.00a

Comments: Overall, insect pressure was extremely low throughout the season. Only one ECB egg mass was detected in the control block on July 26. The percentage of damaged fruit was lower in the non –bell plots compared to the bell pepper plots. It will be important to repeat this study under heavier pressure to determine if these results hold up under heavy pressure. If so, this data can then be used to develop new thresholds to manage ECB in non-bell peppers.