

VegNet is a pest and disease monitoring and reporting network serving the processed vegetable industry, provided by the Oregon State University Extension Service, and funded by the Oregon Processed Vegetable Commission. VegNet is available on the net:

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/linn> Go to commercial vegetables then VegNet. If you have questions or suggestions, and if you would like to add or remove your name from this newsletter mailing list, Contact: Dan McGrath, OSU Extension, PO Box 765, Albany, OR 97321 phone (503) 931-8307; email daniel.mcgrath@oregonstate.edu

12 Spot Beetle Counts Rising

As usual, the first summer generation of 12 spot beetles is beginning to emerge from the soil. There are two generations per year. The new generation is signaled by the return of a normal ratio of male to female beetles. (Male 12 spot beetles are smaller than the females.) Early in the spring, the beetle sex ratio is highly skewed toward females.

At the same time that the first summer generation of beetles is emerging, the wheat and grass fields are drying down. The young beetles naturally concentrate in the irrigated fields. You will see a steady rise in the 12 spot numbers into August. During this transition period, it is definitely worth the trouble to sweep-net sample your bean plantings as they approach first bloom.

On the one hand, it is relatively inexpensive to throw an insecticide in with your fungicide application. On the other hand, if there are no beetles in the planting, the insecticide is mostly wasted. By the time beetles invade the planting, the status of the insecticide will be diminished. In other words, for most insecticides, there is no point in spraying in advance of the arrival of the beetles in the planting.

At this time of year, however, if you make a no-spray decision, be sure to get back to the field in about a week. Check and make sure that 12 spot beetles have not invaded the planting. The most susceptible time for bug bite damage in beans is at the pin-bean stage, which occurs about a week after the first fungicide spray.

Later in the season when the beetle count is significantly higher one can reduce scouting effort. Most plantings will require an insecticide application. Scouting becomes less critical; you know you need to spray. But right now while everything is changing and it is easy to become distracted, be especially cautious.

Scout your bean plantings carefully. I recommend the use of a standard sweep net. If you do not have a net, let me know. I will get one to you.