THESE REPORTS ARE BASED ON INPUT FROM SEVERAL NORTHEAST STATES INCLUDING NEW ENGLAND AND NEW YORK. YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS ARE WELCOME TO MAKE THIS REPORT MORE SPECIFIC TO CONNECTICUT AND TO SHARE INFO FROM OUR STATE WITH OTHER GROWERS IN THE WHOLE REGION. PEST AND DISEASE OBSERVATIONS (AND PHOTOS ARE GREAT) CAN BE SUBMITTED TO SHURESH GHIMIRE AT shuresh.ghimire@uconn.edu. GOOD INFO TO INCLUDE: CROP (INCLUDING CULTIVAR IF KNOWN), PREVALENCE/SEVERITY OF THE PROBLEM, CONTROL STRATEGIES USED, YOUR COUNTY.

Special request: If you trap for corn pests and have numbers to report for Connecticut, other farmers would be interested in the info. Send to Shuresh at his email above.

Allium:

**Thrips** numbers continue to increase in MA.

Brassica:

**Flea Beetle**: High populations in Franklin Co, MA. None on one farm in the Berkshires with good row cover (keeping it on until last possible moment) and no super-susceptible crops!

**Brassica Caterpillars**: Imported cabbageworm (ICW) and diamondback moth (DBM) caterpillars and eggs are active across the region. Cocoons of a parasitoid (photo below) of the ICW, *Cotesia rubecula*, were found on many plants in MA, but DBM feeding is still active.

\[\text{UMass photo.}\]

https://ag.umass.edu/sites/ag.umass.edu/files/newsletters/july_28_2016_vegetable_notes.pdf

**Cross-striped Cabbageworm** is now feeding across the region.

**Cabbage aphids**: A heavy infestation was reported in Franklin Co., MA.
Beans:

**Mexican Bean Beetle:** Adults, larvae and eggs were spotted in Worcester Co, MA. A commercially available larval parasitoid, *Pediobius foveolatus*, can help control this pest. Release should coincide with egg hatch. Chemical control thresholds: Treat when defoliation exceeds 20% pre-bloom or 10% during pod development. See the New England Vegetable Management Guide for product recommendations.

Beets/Spinach/Chard:

**Leafminer:** Fresh eggs found on chard and beet seedlings in Berkshire Co, MA. In Connecticut, less damage is being observed on later plantings than on earlier crops.

Cucurbits:

**Striped Cucumber Beetle:** In CT and NH, populations seem to be decreasing.

**Squash Vine Borer:** Eggs were found last week in Bristol Co, MA and this week in Hampshire Co, MA. Numbers are increasing in CT. Using duct tape to remove eggs from stems instead of scraping reduced damage to stem and the eggs are removed instead of falling to the ground.

**Squash Bug** adults, eggs and early nymphs were observed in MA and CT this week. The New England Vegetable Management Guide recommends treatment when egg masses exceed one per plant. Young nymphs are most easily controlled. Unfortunately, this timing coincides with bloom. If sprays are needed, select those with lower bee toxicity and apply late in the day.

**Cucumber Anthracnose:** Hartford Co., CT. This fungal disease can affect leaves, stems and fruits. Leaf and stem lesions are pictured below (Photo: Joan Allen, UConn).
**Thrips** were observed on cucumber and melon in CT.

**Powdery Mildew:** The first visual spore clusters have been seen in CT, so control sprays are recommended to start this week. For organic growers 40% milk and 60% water applied once a week is an effective control option. Here’s a good [overview on organic management](#) of this disease.

**Solanaceae**

**Blossom Drop** can occur in tomato and pepper following periods with high temperatures.

**Verticillium Wilt** symptoms are showing up in eggplant in CT. Infection probably occurred earlier and now symptoms are appearing when heat and drought stress kick in. Symptoms are pictured below. To confirm, cut the lower stem longitudinally and check for browning of the vascular tissue.

![Foliar symptoms of Verticillium wilt on eggplant](#) and vascular discoloration in the lower stem from [Verticillium Wilt of Vegetables and Herbaceous Ornamentals](http://www.ct.gov/caes/lib/caes/documents/publications/fact_sheets/plant_pathology_and_ecology/verticillium_wilt_of_vegetables_and_herbaceous_ornamentals_05-08-08.pdf)

**Potato Leafhopper:** Numbers continue to be low to moderate across the region with no hopperburn being observed on preferred crops so far.

**Colorado Potato Beetle:** High numbers of 4th instar larvae were observed on a farm in Hartford Co., CT.

**Flea Beetle:** There is still some damage occurring but appears to be decreasing.

**Blossom End Rot** continues to pop up, especially in tunnels. This problem is most common on the fruit that forms in the first clusters. At this time, calcium is still in high demand for vegetative growth of the
plant and those early fruits can end up being short-changed. More info on foliar applications of calcium from a [foliar fertilization article by Gordon Johnson](#): “Foliar calcium (Ca) is often recommended, but because it moves very little, it must be applied at proper growth stages to be effective. For example, for reducing blossom end rot in tomato or pepper fruits, foliar calcium must be applied when fruits are very small. Best sources for foliar calcium are calcium nitrate (10-15 lbs/a), calcium chloride (5-8 lbs/a) and some chelated Ca products (manufacturers recommendations).”

Blossom end rot on green tomatoes. J. Allen, UConn.

**Sweet Corn:**

**Several farms trapping moths in CT report no catches to date.**

**European Corn Borer:** Moths are being caught in traps in NY.

**Corn Earworm:** Increasing trap catches in NY.

**Fall Armyworm:** First catches of the season in NY.

**Western Bean Cutworm:** These are being trapped as well in NY. Those that migrate in are generally tattered while overwintered moths are in better shape. Based on this, it appears that this pest is overwintering in the area. In NY, they’re seeing more damage on field corn than sweet corn this year. The link provided for this pest is an update for this year from Pennsylvania.

**Other crops:**

**Parsleyworm** was observed feeding on dill in CT and NH. Other hosts of this caterpillar, the larval stage of the black swallowtail butterfly, may be present at lower numbers not requiring any treatment.
Observations from the UConn Plant Science Research Farm and Tolland County
Dr. Ana Legrand, Vegetable Entomology Lab

In Tolland County the following insects were observed on cucurbits: **Squash bug** (adults and nymphs), **squash beetle** and the **squash vine borer (SVB)**. The squash beetle is a minor pest while the squash bug and SVB can cause more problems. Squash bugs use their piercing and sucking mouthparts to feed and can cause severe damage because they secrete highly toxic saliva into the plant. The foliage wilts, becomes blackened, and dies following feeding. This insect can also feed on the fruit. Cucurbit crops most susceptible and attractive to this insect are yellow summer squash, zucchini, pumpkin, and Hubbard squash. In fact, a perimeter trap crop management strategy is based on using Hubbard squash. On the other hand, watermelon, cucumber, muskmelon and butternut squash resist damage and provide poor food quality for adults and nymphs.

More information on squash bug management can be found at these links:
http://nevegetable.org/crops/insect-control-19
https://ag.umass.edu/vegetable/fact-sheets/squash-bug
**SVB** moths fly during the day and were observed this week laying eggs. Larvae were also found feeding within plant. SVB damage can be severe – especially in small plantings - and zucchini and summer squash are said to be very susceptible to attack. More information on this insect can be found at the following link: [https://extension.unh.edu/resources/files/Resource004198_Rep6024.pdf](https://extension.unh.edu/resources/files/Resource004198_Rep6024.pdf). A review of SVB management in organic farms can be found at this link: [http://articles.extension.org/pages/65684/biology-and-management-of-squash-vine-borer-in-organic-farming-systems](http://articles.extension.org/pages/65684/biology-and-management-of-squash-vine-borer-in-organic-farming-systems)
**Mexican bean beetle** adults were found on beans and **Colorado potato beetle** adults and larvae were also noted on potato. At the Plant Science Research Farm, **imported cabbageworm** butterflies are actively laying eggs while the **cross-striped cabbageworm** caterpillars have completed or are close to completing their development. They will transform into pupae in the soil. A new generation of adults will emerge from the pupae after 9-11 days at temperatures between 68 and 86 °F.

Other caterpillars observed on cabbage and broccoli were: **imported cabbageworm, diamondback moth, cabbage looper, and saltmarsh caterpillars.**

In terms of good news, we can report that many **hover or flower flies** were observed this week. The larvae of these beneficial flies are important predators of aphids.
Good News:

It’s garlic harvest time!

Photo credit: http://tioga.cce.cornell.edu/events/2016/09/28/planting-garlic