



IN THIS ISSUE:

- [Message From the Director](#)
- [Agents Corner](#)
- [Vegetable Disease Alerts for Virginia](#)
- [VA AG Week](#)
- [What's That Bug?](#)
- [Contact Us](#)

Yes!
WE'RE **OPEN**

Love The Stalk?
Feel free to send
us your feed-
back!

mlpeyton@vt.edu

The Stalk



VOLUME II ISSUE VI

JUNE 2021

From The Director

We look forward to seeing everyone, in person, at our Summer Research Field Day that is scheduled for July 21, 2021 in Painter, VA. We will send out a schedule in the near future with stops that highlight our fresh market tomato, potato, corn, cover crop, high tunnel, unmanned aerial vehicles, and other applied research programs ongoing here at the Eastern Shore AREC! Make sure you come out and meet with our new faculty, staff, and graduate students. We have also initiated interviews for our Assistant Farm Manager position. This new position will assist Tommy Custis, Farm Manager, and James Warren, Farm Mechanic, with research implementation, maintenance, harvest, and data collection. We look forward to finding additional team members to further support ex-

ension and research activities here on the Eastern Shore and across Virginia! Let us know if you have any needs to assist you further as the growing season progresses.

— Mark



Agents Corner

We give thanks for the last few weeks of rain received to end our drought here on the Shore and pray for more showers as we go through the summer. If you experience flooding, long periods of drought or intense heat that visually affects your crops, please consider documenting those incidents with pictures and sharing them with your County Agent. These pictures will be used to bolster any disaster declaration we might need to pursue.



If you would like to stay up to date on the latest information from Accomack and Northampton VCE offices, please consider submitting your email address to Ursula or Theresa for inclusion in our email list serve.

Ursula & Theresa

USDA Pandemic Cover Crop Program (PCCP) - Insurance Premium Benefit for Cover Crops

Agricultural producers who have coverage under most crop insurance policies are eligible for a premium benefit from USDA if they planted cover crops during this crop year. The Pandemic Cover Crop Program (PCCP), offered by USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA), reduces producers' overall premium bills and helps them maintain their cover crop systems. Cultivating cover crops requires a sustained, long-term investment, and the economic challenges of the pandemic made it financially challenging for many producers to maintain cover crop systems. PCCP helps ensure producers can continue this important conservation practice. PCCP is part of USDA's Pandemic Assistance for Producers initiative, a bundle of programs to bring financial assistance to farmers, ranchers and producers who felt the impact of COVID-19 market disruptions. Please visit: <https://www.farmers.gov/pandemic-assistance/cover-crops> for more information

Insect ID Open House

VCE Agents, the Eastern Shore Master Gardeners along with Helene Doughty and Lorena Lopez from the Eastern Shore AREC will be hosting an Insect ID Open-House on June 30th, from 1 to 3 pm. This program is open to producers as well as homeowners who would like to talk about insect management or pest ID. Feel free to stop in from 1-3 pm to ask questions.



Eastern Shore Pest Management Program

VCE Agents will continue our annual pest management program by placing bug traps in corn and soybean fields and monitoring insect thresholds. We will monitor traps weekly and share our findings via email with growers who are interested. If you do not currently receive emails from Ursula or Theresa, please consider sharing your email address with them in order to receive this timely information. If you would like to have a trap placed in your field, please let your County Agent know.

VA Household Water Quality Testing Clinic

The Accomack and Northampton VCE offices will be hosting the VA Household Water Quality Testing Clinic here on the Shore in July 2021. If you or someone you know would like to have their household well tested for contaminants, please register by visiting:

<https://register.ext.vt.edu/search/publicCourseSearchDetails.do?method=load&courseId=257559>

Vegetable Disease Alerts for Virginia

This week Pn (*Phytophthora nicotianae*) was found on potato on Virginia's Eastern Shore. According to Dr. Steve Rideout, although Pn is not as damaging, nor as fast spreading as late blight, this disease can cause substantial damage on potato. Basil Downy Mildew has also been reported in several states. Read the full article on page 5.

Photo taken by Jose F. Garcia Gonzalez, Ph.D.



Virginia Ag Week is June 13th-19th!

Ways that you can celebrate Virginia agriculture:

- Support Virginia's farmers by buying Virginia products and visiting farms and agribusinesses.
- Search for fresh Virginia produce, meats and seafood on VirginiaGrown.com
- Search for Virginia specialty foods and beverages on Virginia's Finest
- Follow VDACS on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/vdacs), [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/vdacs) and [Twitter](https://twitter.com/vdacs)



WHAT'S THAT BUG?



The Entomology Department at the Eastern Shore AREC invites you enter June's "What's That Bug?" contest. Email responses to hdoughty@vt.edu for your chance to win a prize!

*Quick tip, you can also email Hélène pictures of your field or garden pests to identify!

MAY'S BUG



Did you guess a Mexican Bean Beetle? Click [here](#) to learn more!



Eastern Shore Agricultural Research and Extension Center

33446 Research Dr.

Painter, VA 23420

Phone: 757-807-6586

<https://www.arec.vaes.vt.edu/arec/eastern-shore.html>

The Virginia Tech, Eastern Shore AREC is committed to supporting commercial vegetable, grain, oilseed, and fiber production throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. Centrally located on Virginia's Eastern Shore, the center conducts basic and applied research on more than 25 agricultural crops.

If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate in any activity, please contact Lauren Seltzer at 757-807-6586* (*TDD number is (800) 828-1120) during business hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. to discuss accommodations.



ESAREC & VCE Contact Information

ESAREC Faculty	Email	Work Phone	Cell Phone	Title
Mark S. Reiter	mreiter@vt.edu	757/807-6576	757/693-2556	Director/Professor, CSES
Vijay Singh	v.singh@vt.edu	757/807-6579	479/713-0094	Assistant Professor, Weed Science
Emmanuel Torres	etorres@vt.edu		352/682-0708	Associate Professor, Horticulture
Lorena Lopez	lorellopezq257@vt.edu		954/529-9042	Postdoctoral Associate, Entomology

ESAREC Staff	Email	Phone	Title	
James Custis	jcustis@vt.edu	757/807-6596	Farm Manager	
Hélène Doughty	hdoughty@vt.edu	757/807-6592	757/999-0780	Research Specialist, Entomology
John Mason	masonje@vt.edu	757/807-6582		Research Specialist, CSES
Lauren Peyton Seltzer	mlpeyton@vt.edu	757/807-6586	757/710-5701	Executive Secretary Sr.
Joy Zuchel	jzuchel@vt.edu	757/807-6583	757/710-1761	Research Specialist, Horticulture

VCE Faculty	Email	Phone	Address	Title
Ursula Deitch	ursula@vt.edu	757/678-7946	16392 Courthouse Road Eastville, VA 23347	ANR Agent, Northampton County
Theresa Pittman	tpittman@vt.edu	757/787-1361	23185 Front Street Accomac, VA 23301	ANR Agent, Accomack County

Virginia Cooperative Extension programs and employment are open to all, regardless of age, color, disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, veteran status, or any other basis protected by law. An equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Virginia State University, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating. Edwin J. Jones, Director, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA 24061, United States; M. Ray McKinnie, Administrator, 1890 Extension Program, Virginia State University, Petersburg, VA, United States.



VIRGINIA AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION
EASTERN SHORE AGRICULTURAL
RESEARCH AND EXTENSION CENTER
VIRGINIA TECH.





COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND LIFE SCIENCES
SCHOOL OF PLANT AND
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES
VIRGINIA TECH.

Virginia Tech, School of Plant
and Environmental Sciences
101E Price Hall, 170 Drillfield Dr.
Blacksburg, VA 24061
P: (757) 694-7128
srideout@vt.edu

June 12, 2021

Vegetable Disease Alerts for Virginia

I have several disease alerts and updates for everyone.

Phytophthora nicotianae (Pn) on potato – This week Pn was found on potato on Virginia's Eastern Shore. The sample was sent to Dr. Ristaino's lab at NC State where it was confirmed to be Pn, not *Phytophthora infestans*, the causal agent of late blight. While not as damaging, nor as fast spreading as late blight, Pn can cause substantial damage on potato. Pictures of Pn on potato are below (taken by Jose Garcia):





As you can see, the pathogen produces very similar lesions to those seen by late blight. If you encounter anything similar looking in potato or tomato, please contact your VCE personnel. Pn on potato can be managed utilizing products effective on late blight. Please consult the mid-Atlantic vegetable production guide for a list of materials effective against late blight (<https://resources.ext.vt.edu/contentdetail?contentid=2379&contentname=2020-2021%20Mid-Atlantic%20Commercial%20Vegetable%20Production%20Recommendations>) Potato growers on the Eastern Shore are urged to make a fungicide application unless they are planning to terminate their crop soon. Please let us know if there are any further questions or you encounter similar symptoms to those pictured above.

Basil Downy Mildew – Several states have reported basil transplants that are infected with downy mildew that are being sold through commercial venues. Growers and gardeners are urged to inspect their transplants (either purchased or grown from seed) for the disease, basil downy mildew can be identified by yellowing of leaves. The most distinctive feature is bluish-gray sporulation on the backside of leaves, see picture below:



Basil downy mildew can be managed through preventative fungicide applications (see production guide), but is best managed through resistant cultivars (such as Devotion or Obsession).

Seedling damping-off – We have seen post-emergence damping-off in several crops (pumpkins, bean, etc.). Please contact your VCE personnel if you have issues with stand or are losing newly emerged seedlings to best forge a path forward for your crop. If you are currently planting, please consider using premium seed treatments or even in-furrow fungicides if you are in the midst of planting and/or are having issues as our recent wet and warmer weather has favored pathogens such as Pythium and Rhizoctonia. As always, please let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Rideout". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Steve Rideout, Ph.D.

Professor and Extension Specialist of Plant Pathology
Virginia Tech – School of Plant and Environmental Sciences
srideout@vt.edu