

Growers Share IPM Experiences At New Holland Vegetable Day

DAVE LEFEVER
Lancaster Farming Staff

NEW HOLLAND (Lancaster Co.) — Three greenhouse tomato growers from the New Holland area reported good results using biological controls to control tomato pests, particularly aphids and spider mites. The panel spoke at the recent New Holland Vegetable Day at Yoder's restaurant.

Amos Sauder, Kenny Sauder, and Moses Sensenig reported similar success using predatory mites to control spider mites, as well as an aphid predator to control aphids.

The pest control methods are part of an integrated pest management (IPM) program being promoted in the area by Cathy Thomas, an IPM specialist with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

IPM involves regular monitoring of insects by using "sticky

cards" which are hung at various locations in the greenhouse to attract pests and are used to estimate pest populations.

"Sticky cards are extremely useful for scouting insects," said Keny Sauder.

All three growers agreed that the predatory controls worked best before pest populations got too large.

For example, "If you have a big problem (with spider mites), you won't get rid of them with predators," Sauder noted.

The group agreed that chemicals may be required in cases where pest populations are high.

The panel pointed out some of the other factors that need to be managed

in order to reduce insect and disease pressure in the greenhouse. These include controlling weeds — which harbor pests — and maintaining a well-ventilated greenhouse with low humidity.

Thomas said she is planning to expand the IPM program for controlling greenhouse pests, as well as pests in outdoor vegetable crops.

"We have so many tools to use today," Thomas said. "It's a whole integrated package.

Other IPM options include

using nematodes to control fungus gnats. Predators are also available for whiteflies and thrips.

Thomas also pointed out that some recently introduced chemicals on the market are more compatible with the biological controls.

The three growers also employ bumblebees to pollinate their tomato crop. This saves labor and can improve pollination rates, according to panel members.

The bumblebees "know when

to do it and they do it right," Moses Sensenig said.

A hive of bumblebees remains viable for about eight weeks. They can custom-order to match the size of the greenhouse.

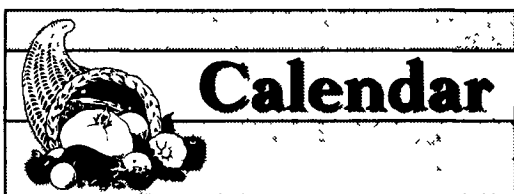
The bees require caution because they are susceptible to various pesticides, the panel pointed out.

"You want to watch your chemicals (when using bumblebees)," Amos Sauder said.

For more information, contact Cathy Thomas at (717) 705-5857.



New Holland-area greenhouse tomato growers, from left, Amos Sauder, Kenny Sauder, and Moses Sensenig share their successes and challenges in using biological agents to control aphids and spider mites. The panel was part of the New Holland Vegetable Day at Yoder's Restaurant Jan. 20.



Calendar

Sunday, February 2

Shade Tree Symposium, Lancaster Host Resort, thru Feb. 4.

Monday, February 3

North American Farmers' Direct Marketing Conference and Trade Show, Adams Mark, Charlotte, N.C., thru Feb. 10, (413) 529-0386.
Capitol Area Turf and Ornamental Winter School, Holiday Inn, Grantville, 8 a.m.-3:10 p.m.

Tuesday, February 4

Mid-Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Conference and Trade Show, Hershey Lodge and Convention Center, Hershey, thru Feb. 6, (717) 694-3596.

Wednesday, February 5

Annual meeting of general membership of Pa. Vegetable Growers' Association, Monarch Suites, Hershey Lodge and Convention Center, Hershey, 4:30 p.m., (717) 694-3596.

Thursday, February 6

New Grape Growers Workshop, Howard County Fairgrounds, Friendship, Md., (301) 432-2767, ext. 315.

North American Farmers' Direct Marketing Conference, Charlotte, N.C., (413) 529-0386.

Friday, February 7

Mid-Atlantic Winter Brambles Conference, Holiday Inn, Leesburg, Va., thru Feb. 8, (703) 737-8978.
PASA's Farming for the Future Conference, State College, thru Feb. 8.

Sunday, February 9

Ohio Wine Shortcourse, Wyndam Hotel, Dublin, thru Feb. 11.

Monday, February 10

New York State Vegetable Conference, Syracuse, N.Y., thru Feb. 13, (315) 687-5734.

Soil Standards for Planting Trees and Shrubs Conference, Pleasant Acres Annex, York, 8:45 a.m.-4 p.m., (717) 840-7408.

Tuesday, February 11

Cambria and Somerset Regional Vegetable and Potato Meeting, Ebensburg, (814) 472-7986.

"Strategies for a Thriving Farm Business," Willow Valley Resort, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., (717) 397-3531.

Wednesday, February 12

Farm Business Plan, Northampton County Extension Office meeting room, Nazareth, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

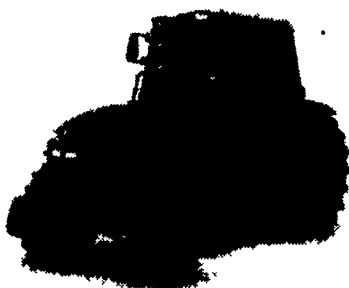
Thursday, February 13

Virginia Vineyard Association Technical Confer-

(Turn to Page E21)

The McCormick F Series tractors (54-93 engine hp) engineered specifically for vineyard and orchard operations where compact design, maneuverability, power and stability are essential.

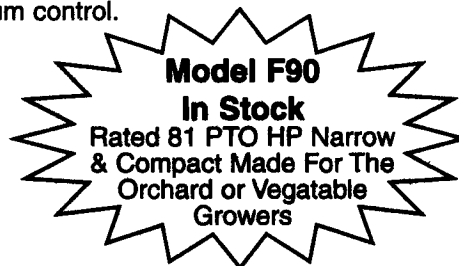
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Fuel tank capacity - gal.	14/16	14/16	14/16	14/16	14/16
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