ORGANIC INTENSIVES

THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 2017

Organic Pest Management Principles and Practices for the Diversified Vegetable Farm, with a Focus on Cucurbits

Successful diversified vegetable production depends in part on having a well-developed organic pest management plan. MSU researchers and extension specialists Zsofia Szendrei (Entomology), Matt Grieshop (Entomology), Dan Brainard (Horticulture) and Blair Harlan (Plant Pathology) are working to develop organic pest management strategies and educational materials for cucurbit crops. Participants will benefit from the USDA funded project and learn pest management strategies for the diversified organic vegetable farm, with a focus on small and medium scale systems. This will be a unique opportunity for organic farmers to pick up some of the most recent information available on successful organic pest management techniques from both researchers and practitioners. Members of the project farmer advisory team who will be participating include Lee Arbogast (Live Edge Growers) and Jacob Bach (Natures Pace Organics).

Time	Topics
9:00	Introduction from an organic farmer's perspective. What are the key pests for diversified vegetable production?
9:40	Ground cover / weeds; ecological perspective; cucurbit specifics. Options and strategies; Developing a farm specific plan. Dan Brainard
10:55	Break
11:10	Cucurbit Herbivores and Insects: Sources of infestations and life cycles. Cucumber beetles, stem borers, other pests. Zsofia Szendrei

Time	Topics
12:25	Lunch – Brody Cafeteria Upstairs
1:30	Decomposers and diseases; powdery mildew, bacterial wilt, downy mildew, phytophora and others. Management strategies; developing a farm specific plan. Blair Harlan
2:40	Break
3:00	Panel Discussion and Questions, cucurbit specific and other vegetable crops questions. Identify current and future needs and concerns.
4:35	Evaluation & Wrap Up