



# **MSU Agriculture Innovation Day**

## **Focus on Fruit and Vegetable Technologies**

### **Managing Diseases for Higher Profitability and a Safer Environment**

#### **Water management is critical to disease management**

- Plant into well-drained, tiled fields
- Use drip irrigation whenever possible
- Use well water for irrigation and irrigate sparingly
- Don't use surface water for irrigation

#### **Growing practices can limit Phytophthora spread**

- Do not rotate squash, pumpkin, or cucumbers with tomatoes, peppers, or snap beans. At least 4 years is needed between these crops.
- Use raised plant beds for better water drainage. Plant beds should be as high as possible and the plastic mulch tight against the bed.

#### **Scout field regularly for Phytophthora**

- Scout fields early and often, especially during wet warm weather
- Apply fungicides preventively and frequently when needed.
- New fungicides offer good plant protection and should be applied to the soil to protect the plant and applied foliarly to protect the fruit.
- Increasing plant spacing can increase fungicide coverage of the fruit.
- Hard squash is most susceptible to fruit rot during the 21 days following pollination and should be protected.
- Some pepper varieties are resistant to crown rot. These varieties can be used with a reduced fungicide program. Soil-applied fungicides protect peppers from crown rot and work better than fungicides applied to the foliage or stem.

#### **Practice sanitation to reduce Phytophthora spread**

- Disc under infected plants and surrounding healthy-looking plants
- Work in contaminated fields last and then powerwash equipment.
- Do not dump diseased cull fruit into production fields.



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