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Downy Mildew of Cucumbers

By William L. Doran

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Downy mildew is a common and important disease of cucumbers in Massachusetts as well as in most of the eastern and southern states. This is a report on investigations of the source of the primary infection, the effect of climatic factors on the disease and on the fungus which causes it, and the prevention of infection by the use of fungicides.

MASSACHUSETTS STATE COLLEGE
AMHERST, MASS.

Yields of cucumbers were increased more if copper-lime dust was first applied before, rather than after, infection. In Massachusetts, the first application of a copper fungicide should be made, in the field, about July 25. Later applications should be made at weekly intervals. Bordeaux mixture 3:3:50 is a sufficient concentration for use in the field. Bordeaux mixture 1:1:50 prevented infection of greenhouse cucumbers and, because of the possibility of copper injury, this is the concentration suggested for use in greenhouses.

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