

2015- WEATHER and TRIAL SITE CONDITIONS

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The 2015 trials were planted between May 19- June 3. Weather conditions during the majority of the growing season were relatively average when compared to historical observations. The trial site received 21.03in of rain between April 1 and Oct 31. Accumulated GDD (b50) totaled 2867 during this time period. May1-Oct31 was marked with predominately cloudy conditions with 122 of 183 partly to cloudy days. On 85 of the 183 days the site received measureable precipitation. September was the outlier for the growing season as the average temp was over 6°F higher than normal. The first frost of the season occurred on October 16.

Disease incidence during the 2015 season was also relatively average. Cucurbits showed early infections of Angular Leaf Spot. This caused a fair amount of foliar damage and ultimately delayed vegetative growth further into the season than usual. Additionally, cucumbers showed moderate rates of Powdery Mildew starting midseason and melons were suspected of having a late season infection of Downey Mildew. Tomatoes showed early and high infection rates of Bacterial Speck and Early Blight that persisted most of the season. This led to a significant amount of unmarketable fruit. Peppers displayed little disease damage with the exception of Stem Soft Rot on a few varieties. Brassicas encountered high infection rates of Powdery Mildew late season.

Insect damage during the 2015 season was also low to average. Japanese beetles and imported cabbageworm were of most concern, but caused minimal damage.