A Review of *Vegetable Insect Management*

Edited by Rick Foster and Brian R. Flood, 2005, Purdue Research Foundation, West Lafayette, IN 47907. ISBN 1-892829-15-0. Published by Meister Media Worldwide, 2006, Willoughby, Ohio. 254 pages and CD-ROM.

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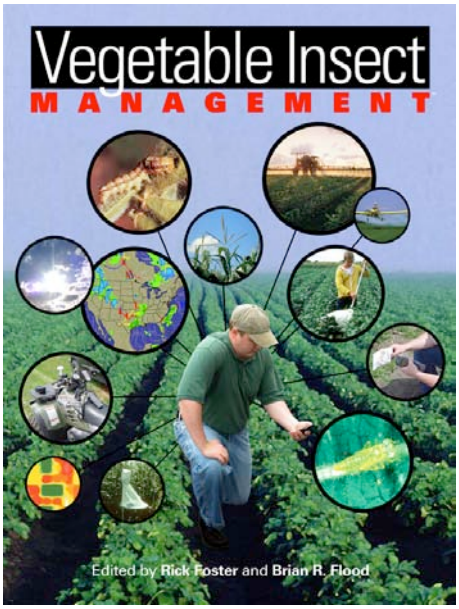

Rick Foster of Purdue University and Brian Flood of Del Monte Foods have done a masterful job with their revision of *Vegetable Insect Management*. The information is useful to the novice and the practitioner, to the teacher and the Extension specialist. It provides a fundamental course in practical integrated pest management (IPM) *and* extensive and detailed information on modern pest management strategies for controlling insect pests of vegetables.

One interesting aspect of the book is the highlighting of important facts (e.g., economic thresholds and when to scout), which allows the reader to find important information quickly. The text is well illustrated with line drawings and color photographs are clear and crisp. Text boxes enhance the book's readability.

Vegetable Insect Management will become a very useful reference and an indispensable resource to university professionals and vegetable growers. It's a must-have book to keep handy on your desk or in your truck.

The authors indicated that…

"the intent of this edition is still to present a production-based approach to integrated pest management systems."

They have clearly met their goal with the publication of the second edition of *Vegetable Insect Management*.

Vegetable Insect Management - Book

The book itself is beautifully done and contains many parts invaluable to a pesticide safety educator. Its primary focus is on application decision-making, so it lends itself well to explaining IPM concepts to vegetable growers.

The key concept in the book is the *"treatment window"* (Figure 1). The overwhelmingly important concept of timing is neatly tied to saving money and chemicals by only using them on pests at vulnerable points in their life cycles. The first few chapters focus on the foundations of IPM; insecticide toxicity; insect resistance to pesticides; application technology; affect of weather and climate on application; timing of

application; and pest and host life cycles. Once the reader tackles these concepts and builds their knowledge, they are instructed on how to construct a "handy dandy" chart to plan out their pest management regime (Figure 2).

The guide then focuses chapter by chapter on individual vegetable crops ranging from leafy greens to root crops. The book does address organic production, but in most cases it relies on insecticide controls. The insecticides mentioned in the book and some of the other content may soon be out-dated, so the book shouldn't be purchased as a production guide.

Vegetable Insect Management - CD

The companion CD-ROM has a series of PDF (Portable Document Files) and PPS (PowerPoint read only) files that allow the user to activate and learn some of the concepts explained in the guide. The PowerPoint files cannot be altered. This is understandable considering the quality of the work and the chance that someone could alter and take credit for the contents. The PowerPoint productions are professionally done and some of the highest quality electronic presentations we have seen used in pest management education. The graphics and layout are truly stunning. The series of PDF files range in topic from cleaning sprayers to pesticide safety-related content. All of these materials would be useful to anyone conducting a pesticide safety education program.

The PowerPoint files are perhaps the CDs most valuable content. These help explain when to spray and when not to spray – a concept that is a key component in any IPM or pesticide safety education program.

The CD was mastered for Windows based PC's only and comes with an "auto-run" feature to enhance its use on those systems. Predictably, Macintosh users will have issues running the CD. This doesn't mean it is impossible to view the CD's files on a Mac, but it can be unpredictable. On some OS X Macintosh machines the CD was outright rejected, and on others it would not eject properly. When tried on one of the new Intel Macs running Windows XP, the problem did not go away. Apparently this issue stems from the way the CD was initialized; it is not a compatibility issue with the content files. So buyers beware: you may or may not be able to view the content. The CD is referenced throughout the book, so anyone having problems with the CD would sacrifice its use in those sections. However, this may not be an issue. Most parts of the book explain the concepts reinforced by the CD, so the Mac user isn't necessarily left in the cold if the CD doesn't work.

Regardless of the CD issues, the book is a classic when it comes to its intended use. As mentioned earlier, we recommend it for any vegetable grower, pest manager, IPM specialist, Extension agent, or pesticide safety educator seeking to work in the area of vegetable pest management.

Figure 1. The "Treatment Window" – a key concept. *(dbh= days before harvest)*

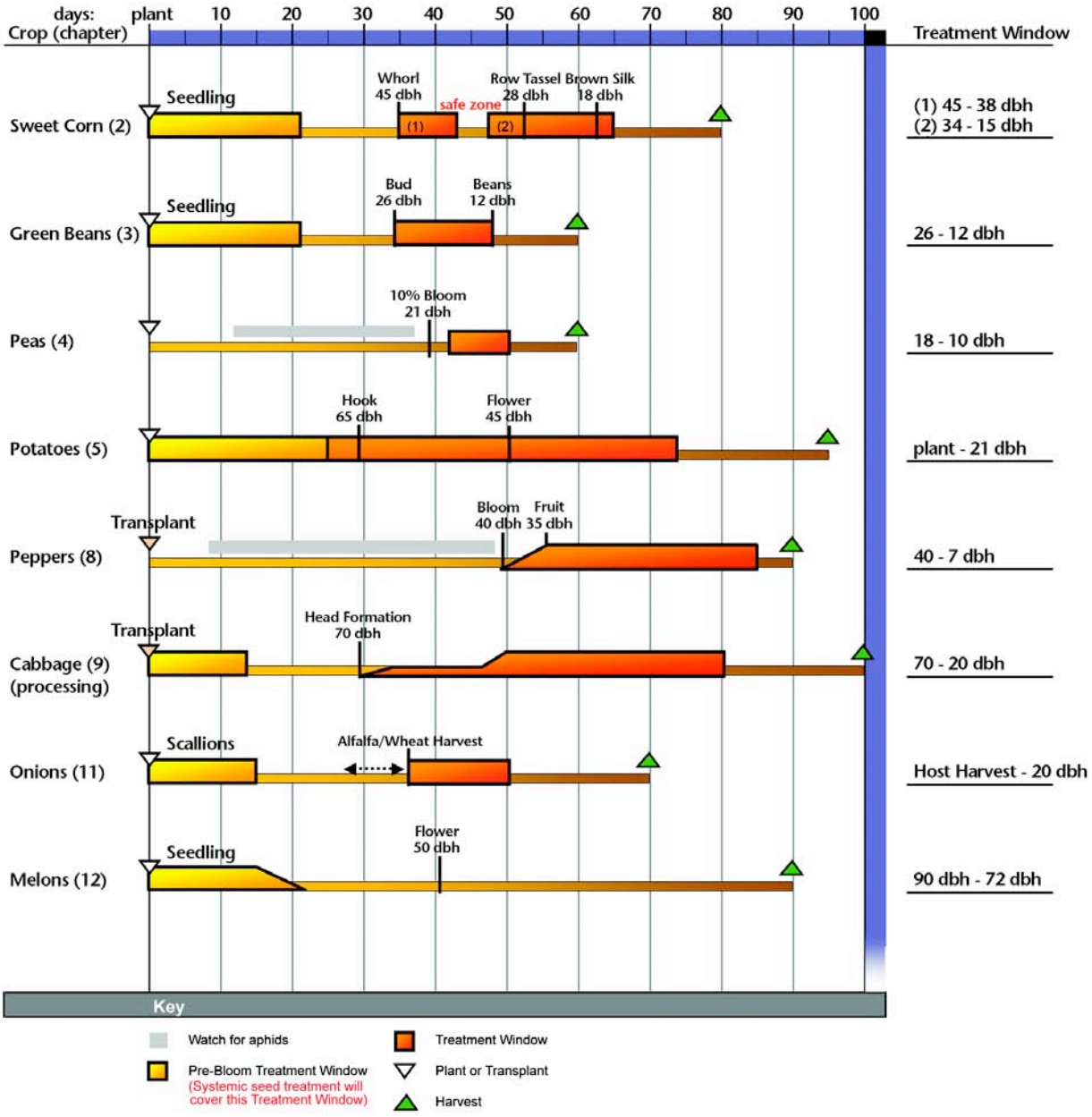

Figure 2. How to build a "Handy Dandy Chart."