



Tomecek Agronomy Services Inc.

December 5, 2024

To: Ontario Cucumber Research Committee (OCRC),

Re: Cucumber Downy Mildew Monitoring Program 2024 Final Report

Tomecek Agronomy monitored five hand-harvest cucumber fields in Chatham-Kent during the 2024 growing season for the presence of Downy Mildew (DM). Scouting commenced during the week of June 10–15 and continued for six weeks, concluding the week of July 15–19. The selected fields were located in Wallaceburg, Port Lambton, Dresden, Chatham, and Blenheim.

Scouting was conducted using a "W" walking pattern, with focused attention on low-lying areas and field edges near windbreaks or woodlots—areas prone to longer leaf wetness periods where Downy Mildew typically first appears. At each visit, the scout stopped at 20 locations per field and randomly inspected 10 leaves at each location. While the primary focus was identifying Downy Mildew symptoms, the scout also reported any additional field issues to the growers.

On June 24th, Tomecek Agronomy received notification from Elaine Roddy at OMAFRA that Downy Mildew had been confirmed in Norfolk County. Later that week (June 24–27), Downy Mildew was identified in three of the five monitored fields in Chatham-Kent during the third week of scouting. In all affected fields, symptoms were detected at only one site per field, with low severity (less than 5% of leaf area covered by lesions). Upon confirmation, all relevant

parties were promptly notified, including the grower, the Ontario Cucumber Research Committee, the Ontario Processing Vegetable Growers (OPVG), and OMAFRA Extension.

By the fourth week of scouting, Downy Mildew was observed in all five fields, with symptoms and severity increasing slightly (1–5% of leaf area affected). However, symptoms remained localized to specific hotspots within the fields.

Thank you for allowing us to be part of this project. We would certainly be interested in participating again next year, and will submit a proposal for your consideration for the 2025 growing season.

Kind regards,

Joe Tomecek, CCA, 4RNMS

Tomecek Agronomy Services Inc.