



November 15, 2023

To: Ontario Cucumber Research Committee (OCRC),

## **Re: Cucumber Downy Mildew Monitoring Program 2023 Final Report**

Tomecek Agronomy monitored five hand-harvest cucumber fields within Chatham-Kent this season for the presence of Downy Mildew. Scouting began the week of June 12<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>. The five fields selected were located in Wallaceburg, Port Lambton, Dresden, Chatham, and Blenheim.

Scouting continued for a total of 6 weeks, ending the week of July 17<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>. Fields were walked in a “W” pattern, with special attention being given to low-lying areas and field edges near windbreaks or woodlots that have longer leaf wetness periods, where Downy Mildew is likely to initially be found. The scout stopped at 20 locations per field at each visit and randomly inspected 10 leaves at each location. The scout was primarily looking for Downy Mildew symptoms but would also report any other in-field issues identified to the grower.

The presence of Downy Mildew was detected in three of the five fields by our scout in the 4th week of the project (specifically between July 4<sup>th</sup> and July 7<sup>th</sup>). In all affected fields, DM was only spotted at 3 or fewer sites and the severity was low (less than 5% leaf area covered by lesions). It was confirmed by both Joe Tomecek and Elaine Roddy (OMAFRA) on July 4<sup>th</sup>, upon which the grower, Ontario Cucumber Research Committee, OPVG and OMAFRA Extension were all notified immediately. By the 5<sup>th</sup> week, we had found it in all 5 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 2024 growing season.

Kind regards,

*Joe Tomecek, CCA, 4RNMS*

*Tomecek Agronomy Services Inc.*