



Organic Commercial Spray Schedule for Field Production of Cucumber

Nicole Gauthier
Plant Pathology
Extension Specialist

Kim Leonberger
Plant Pathology
Extension Associate

Sara Long
Plant Disease
Diagnostic Assistant

Rachel Rudolph
Horticulture
Extension Specialist

INTRODUCTION

Commercial field production of organic cucumber allows growers to yield premium crop prices. However, numerous plant pathogens can cause disease, resulting in plant damage and yield loss. Applications of fungicides and bactericides are often necessary to limit the impact of plant diseases. These products provide the greatest efficacy when applied prior to disease onset. Growers should develop a preventative spray schedule for each crop and season to limit the impact of diseases. Organic growers will rely on specific products to maintain certifications or be able to market produce as organically produced. This document provides information on the timing of the most common cucumber diseases, as well as an example spray schedule. Fungicides recommended here include a few of the most common products; a complete list of registered fungicides can be found in *Vegetable Production Guide for Commercial Growers* (ID-36) and *Southeastern U.S. Vegetable Crop Handbook* (SEVEW); generic products may also be available. Information on OMRI approved products is available at <https://www.omri.org/>.

Cucumber	
Disease	Time Period
Pythium root rot	May - June
Bacterial wilt	June - Aug
Fusarium wilt	June - Aug
Gummy stem blight	June - Aug
Angular leaf spot	July - Aug
Anthrachnose	July - Aug
Cercospora leaf spot	July - Aug
Downy mildew	July - Aug
Powdery mildew	July - Aug

TIMELINE OF COMMON AND IMPORTANT DISEASES OCCURRING ON CUCUMBER.



GUMMY STEM BLIGHT (*left*) AND ANGULAR LEAF SPOT (*right*) ARE COMMON CUCUMBER DISEASES THAT CAN REDUCE YIELDS.

Disease Management for Organic Field Cucumbers

GENERAL NOTES

The following includes an example of products; this list is not comprehensive. A complete list of fungicides and their efficacy can be found in the *Vegetable Production Guide for Commercial Growers* (ID-36) and the *Southeastern U.S. Vegetable Crop Handbook* (SEVEW). See Additional Resources section.

Always read product labels for specific use instructions. The label is the law.

PREPLANT

Rotate out of cucurbit crops for at least 3 years, especially for sites with a history of soil-borne diseases. Space plants for maximum air circulation. When available, use resistant cultivars (e.g. bacterial wilt or powdery mildew resistant cultivars). Follow cultural practices (rotate crops, improve drainage, practice sanitation).

AT PLANTING (Approximately early May)

Apply LalStop K61, Obtego, or RootShield Plus if Pythium root rot or damping off disease emerges or if field has a history of belly rot, cottony leak, or Fusarium fruit rot. To prevent bacterial wilt, manage cucumber beetles beginning at seedling stage (See *Cucumber Beetles* Entfact-311 publication).

VEGETATIVE GROWTH (Approximately early May through mid-June)

Practice good sanitation, such as removing diseased or senescing tissue regularly and removing clippings and debris from the field.

Application Timing <i>Weeks after planting</i>	Application Notes	Fungicides ²	Target Diseases
Week 1 to 5	Use fungicides preventatively before disease develops. Applications should be made every 1 to 2 weeks. A SAR inducer can help plants build immunity.	Cease/Stargus	Leaf diseases
		Copper ^{3,4}	
		OSO	
		SAR inducer Actinovate/Regalia	

FLOWERING THROUGH HARVEST (Approximately early July through mid-August)

Application Timing <i>Weeks after planting</i>	Application Notes	Fungicides/Bactericides ²	Target Diseases
Week 6 to 15	Use fungicides preventatively before disease develops. Applications should be made every 1 to 2 weeks.	Cease/Stargus	Angular leaf spot, anthracnose, downy mildew, Cercospora leaf spot, powdery mildew
		Copper ^{3,4}	
		OSO	
As needed ¹	For severe powdery mildew or high risk plantings, add an additional product to tank mix or add additional sprays.	Sulfur ⁵	Powdery mildew
		Cease/Stargus	
		MilStop	
		EcoSwing	
As needed ¹	Applications should be made every 1 to 2 weeks when risk is high. Monitor disease via ipmpipe.org forecasting site.	Copper ^{3,4}	Downy mildew
		MilStop	
		Zonix	

¹ Application necessary when diagnostic results confirm presence of disease or if field has history of disease.

² See SEVEW Table 3-51 Biopesticides for alternative products. (Note: This production guide is revised annually and location of this information could change.)

³ Copper products can include Badge, Basic Cop, Nordox, or NuCop.

⁴ Combining copper fungicides with SAR products like Actinovate, Regalia, and some Bacillus products can enhance efficacy of copper-based fungicides.

⁵ Sulfur should not be applied within 7 days of Bacillus products.

Disease Management for Organic Field Cucumbers

FLOWERING THROUGH HARVEST (Approximately early July through mid-August) (cont'd)

Application Timing <i>Weeks after planting</i>	Application Notes	Fungicides/Bactericides ²	Target Diseases
As needed ¹	For severe angular leaf spot or high risk plantings, add an additional product to tank mix or add additional sprays. A SAR inducer can help plants build immunity.	Copper ^{3,4}	Angular leaf spot
		Cease/Stargus	
		Leap	
		SAR inducer Actinovate/Regalia	
As needed ¹	Applications should be made every 1 to 2 weeks.	Copper ^{3,4}	Gummy stem blight
		OSO	
		Cease	

¹ Application necessary when diagnostic results confirm presence of disease or if field has history of disease.

² See SEVEW Table 3-51 Biopesticides for alternative products. (Note: This production guide is revised annually and location of this information could change.)

³ Copper products can include Badge, Basic Cop, Nordox, or NuCop.

⁴ Combining copper fungicides with SAR products like Actinovate, Regalia, and some Bacillus products can enhance efficacy of copper-based fungicides.

⁵ Sulfur should not be applied within 7 days of Bacillus products.

EXAMPLE SPRAY SCHEDULE FOR ORGANIC FIELD PRODUCTION OF CUCUMBER.

Organic Cucumber		
Weeks after Planting	Fungicide(s)	Target Diseases
1-5	Actinovate+Cease	LS
Weeks during Harvest	Fungicide(s)	Target Diseases
6	Cease+EcoSwing	A, DM, GSB, LS, PM
7	NuCop+MilStop	A, DM, GSB, LS, PM
8	Cease+EcoSwing	A, DM, GSB, LS, PM
9	NuCop+MilStop	A, DM, GSB, LS, PM
10	Cease+EcoSwing	A, DM, GSB, LS, PM
11	NuCop+MilStop	A, DM, GSB, LS, PM
12	Cease+EcoSwing	A, DM, GSB, LS, PM
13	NuCop+MilStop	A, DM, GSB, LS, PM
14	Cease+EcoSwing	A, DM, GSB, LS, PM
15	NuCop+MilStop	A, DM, GSB, LS, PM

A - ANTHRACNOSE; DM - DOWNY MILDEW;
GSB - GUMMY STEM BLIGHT; LS - LEAF SPOTS;
PM - POWDERY MILDEW

DISCLAIMER

Fungicides listed here include a few of the most common products available and were selected to simplify information in this publication.

No endorsement is intended nor is criticism implied of similar products that are not named.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Additional information can be found on the UK Plant Pathology Extension Publications webpage <https://plantpathology.ca.uky.edu/extension/publications>

- Vegetable Production Guide for Commercial Growers (ID-36)
- Southeastern U.S. Vegetable Crop Handbook (SEVEW)
- OMRI Product Website <https://www.omri.org/>

May 2025

Editor: Cheryl Kaiser, Plant Pathology Extension Support

Photos: Gerald Holmes, Strawberry Center, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Bugwood.org