

Pumpkin Disease Management Timeline for Indiana

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Use this timeline to determine the appropriate disease management measures for pumpkin diseases common to Indiana.

Disease	Winter/Fall Off-season	Planting	Early Vine Growth	Bush Stage/Softball-sized Fruit	Fruit Maturity	Harvest
bacterial fruit spot	Rotate crops 3 years and practice fall tillage. May be seedborne. Avoid problem fields.		Scout. Treat with fixed copper sprays if bacterial spot is present.	If disease threatens, apply fixed copper at 7-14-day intervals. Applying mancozeb with fixed copper products may slow bacterial spot symptoms.	Fixed copper applications may be stopped when fruit set is complete.	Do not save seed from affected fields. Identify fruit problems.
black rot	Rotate crops 3 years and practice fall tillage. May be seedborne. Avoid problem fields.		Begin contact or systemic fungicide applications if disease pressure is high.	Contact/systemic fungicide applications should start here and continue at 7-14 day intervals.	Apply fungicides through early to mid-fruit maturity depending on disease pressure.	Do not save seed from affected fields. Identify fruit problems.
downy mildew	Crop rotation and fall tillage will not affect downy mildew because the fungus will not overwinter in Indiana. More information about downy mildew is available in <i>Vegetable Diseases: Downy Mildew of Pumpkin</i> (BP-140-W).			Begin scouting in July. Follow disease progress in the Purdue Extension Vegetable Crops Hotline bulletin or at cdm.ipmpipe.org . Apply specialized systemic downy mildew fungicides only if disease is observed in the area.		
Fusarium fruit rot	Crop rotations of at least 4 years. Growing pumpkins in cover crops may help to lessen the impact of this disease.			Manage foliar diseases for better fruit health. Avoid other fruit diseases, such as bacterial fruit spot or Phytophthora blight.		Identify fruit problems.
Plectosporium blight	Rotate crops 3-4 years and practice fall tillage.			Contact/systemic fungicide applications should start here and continue at 7-14 day intervals.		Identify fruit problems.
Phytophthora blight	Use long crop rotations (4 years) that do not include solanaceous crops. Practice fall tillage. Avoid problem fields and waterlogged areas.	Seed treated with appropriate fungicide may help.		Apply contact or systemic fungicides when disease threatens and before disease appears. Specialized systemic fungicides are available.		Identify fruit problems.
powdery mildew	Crop rotation and fall tillage are moderately important. Several cultivars have partial resistance.			Begin systemic fungicide applications at 2-3 week intervals according to cultivar and disease pressure. Protect vines through September.		
virus diseases	Crop rotation and fall tillage have no effect on these diseases.	Earlier planted or maturing cultivars will help avoid severe disease problems.		Control weeds in and around production areas.		Identify fruit problems.

Post-Harvest Care

Inspect fruit for signs of developing lesions. Remove field debris from fruit surface with soft brush or rag. If fruit is washed, use 150 ppm solution of sodium hypochlorite (approximately 1/3 oz. household bleach per gallon water), and dry fruit well.

More information about disease management is available in the *Midwest Vegetable Production Guide for Commercial Growers*, mwvegguide.org. Keep current during the season about diseases and more with the Vegetable Crops Hotline, veg hotline.org.

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