

Spore Counts and How to Interpret Them

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Spore traps have been placed in several cucumber fields throughout the cucumber growing region. Each spore trap operates by continuously pulling in air and all associated particles (i.e., spores, pollen, dust, etc.). Downy mildew spores will be concentrated in areas where the disease is established. It is impossible to know where the first outbreak of downy mildew within any particular county may occur.

A new infection may not register high spore counts, initially. Also if a new infection is not located near the spore trap, the spores will not be picked up by the trap until the disease becomes more widespread.