Vegetable Diseases

Lima Beans.
Downy mildew was a no show this season. The weather conditions were very unfavorable for infection. Be on the lookout for white mold on late lima beans, especially after the predicted rain on Sept 26 and 27. Applications of Topsisin M are recommended for white mold control. White mold has been seen lately especially in fields with a history of the disease. Anthracnose is also present in many fields at the present time. Infected leaves have small (up to 1/2 inch), irregular dark, rusty brown spots. Rotations of two years or more will aid control. Phytophthora pod rot caused by Phytophthora capsici, was diagnosed again this week. It has been a minor problem, but has been found in low areas of fields mostly on pods on close to the soil surface. This is the same Phytophthora that causes Phytophthora fruit rot on pickles and other cucurbits. Rotate away from fields that have grown susceptible crops such as cucurbits, tomatoes, and peppers.

Pumpkins.
I have seen several samples this week of fruit rots caused by Fusarium that produces round, rough, sunken spots on the sides and the bottom of the fruit. Fusarium fruit rot is more likely to occur during wet seasons or after wet periods. In general, fruit quality has been good due to the dry weather. Little is known about how these Fusarium fungi (11 different Fusaria have been reported to cause fruit rot) infect cucurbit fruit. Fungicides have not provided much control of these because of the difficulty to cover the fruit effectively. Infection is thought to take place in the field and causes decay both in the field and post-harvest as well. Since many of the fruit rot Fusarium occur on corn as well, there maybe some correlation with increased incidence of fruit rot following corn especially in wet seasons.

Nematodes in Vegetables.
Fall is the best time to soil sample for nematode pests such as root knot, lesion, and other plant parasitic nematodes. After fall harvest, but before any fall tillage is done, take soil cores 6-8 inches deep between plants in the row. Samples should be taken in the root zone of the old crop. Twenty cores/sample should be taken from random spots in the field and placed in a plastic bucket gently mixed, and a pint of soil submitted for analysis. Nematode test bags and instructions are available for purchase from the county Extension offices. Samples cost $10.00. Fall sampling for root knot nematodes is strongly recommended for fields that will be planted in cucumbers, watermelons, cantaloupes, lima beans or other high value vegetables where root knot could reduce production.

Fall Sanitation.
In vegetable production it is not a good idea to leave old crop residue in the field any longer than necessary. If the crop is allowed to survive after harvest, fungi that cause many diseases continue to increase on the surviving plants. This allows higher numbers of the fungus to potentially survive until next season. Sanitation (plowing or disk the old crop) will help prevent pathogen carry-over.
Field Crop Diseases

Small Grains.
Be sure that you plant wheat varieties with high levels of disease resistance. Seed should be treated to protect them from loose smut and common bunt. Varieties that are susceptible to powdery mildew should be treated with Baytan to protect them from early infection.

Soybeans.
Do not ignore soybean cyst nematode. It is still present as we saw this year on the drought-stressed crop early in the season. Soil sampling after harvest, before any fall tillage, is recommended for fields to be planted to soybeans next season. If you saw SCN on the roots and plants were stunted, select SCN resistant varieties. If the variety was SCN resistant, sample to determine the level of infestation and rotate to a non-host crop or choose a variety with a different source of resistance. Soil sample bags are available from the county Extension offices for $10/ sample bag.

Late soybeans have some Septoria leafspot in areas that had some of the recent rains.