



On the WEB at: http://vegnet.osu.edu

In This Issue

- 1. Late Blight in Potatoes and Tomatoes Again
- 2. Weather-What s Ahead
- 3. Recently Added to VegNet ♦ on iTunes U

Late Blight in Potatoes and Tomatoes ◆ Again ◆ ◆ April 27, 2010

Sally Miller, The Ohio State University OARDC Department of Plant Pathology

We have been hearing reports that late blight *may* be present in some seed potatoes from Wisconsin and Michigan. The determination was made using very sensitive lab tests (PCR) but so far the late blight pathogen has not been cultured. The incidence of tubers with late blight was very low (well below the 1% threshold). So this means that it is a good idea to be vigilant, especially given the rainy cool weather we have been experiencing.

Early season management of potato late blight:

- 1. Cull out rotten tubers and destroy them.
- 2. Apply a seed treatment containing mancozeb or a late blight-specific fungicide with a label for seed piece treatment such as Curzate 60DF.
- 3. Clean cutting tools with a disinfectant such as dilute Clorox between lots and as often as possible between tubers.
- 4. Apply a fungicide at emergence that has late blight-specific activity such as Curzate, Revus Top, Forum or Previcur tank mixed with chlorothalanil or mancozeb.
- 5. Scout intensely for late blight after emergence, particularly under cool, wet conditions.

More information on the late blight situation in Michigan and Wisconsin potatoes and recommendations for disease management can be found by clicking on the following URLs (or copying and pasting into your browser): http://news.msue.msu.edu/news/article/urgent_potato_late_blight_information_update and http://www.plantpath.wisc.edu/wivegdis/pdf/2011/ /Late%20blight%20news%20alert%20April%2016%202011.pdf.

We have also heard a recent report of late blight in potatoes and seedling tomatoes in Connecticut. This is a local grower and tomato seedlings will not be shipped. However, it is good to point put that our very wet spring is highly conducive for late blight in tomatoes, and if the inoculum is present in Ohio in potato cull piles or potatoes newly emerged from infected seed, tomato seedlings in greenhouses may be at risk.

Be sure to scout tomato seedlings intensively in the greenhouse during production and before planting. Early applications of protectant fungicides may be necessary if weather conditions are cool and rainy. If late blight is diagnosed in your area, the use of late blight-specific fungicides may be warranted.

What's Ahead? From Accuweather.com

While a break of dry weather is coming later in the week into the weekend, the atmosphere is probably not yet done dishing out heavy rainfall (and severe thunderstorms) for the region.



As a pocket of chilly air develops in the Northeast during the first part of May, the battle zone may still lie over the Midwest, where the warm, moist air continues to charge in from the South and rise violently, forming the relentless downpours and big storms.

While the rainfall forecast during May will probably not sustain the flood levels at present or soon to be experienced, it could continue to produce well above average stream flows and river levels above flood stage through much of the balance of the spring.

In addition the weather pattern will favor, at the very least, episodes of flash and small stream flooding on a local basis in the region through much of May.

With the shift in the cool pocket and further confrontations with warmth and chill, there may be an increase in risk of storms with severe weather and flooding farther north over the Midwest, than what we have seen so far this spring.

The surge of high water will also continue to work downstream in the weeks ahead, reaching areas from Memphis to New Orleans.

Recently Added to VegNet on iTunes U

To find us, go to the iTunes Store. Do a search for VegNet. Click on our logo:



and your there!

Download our seminars. Access and play our video podcasts on most mobile devices or from your computer.

- Cucumber beetle control by systemic insecticide treatement by Dr. C. Welty
- Pumpkin IPM ♦ Powdery mildew control, 2010 by Jim Jasinski

We hope to have more video and audio podcasts available in the future with such topics as insect or other pest updates and since you can subscribe to the feed you will always be up to date. Check it out.

