

PEST ALERT

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Dear Grower,

The crop is growing extremely rapidly. The frequency and intensity of the rain events has made it difficult to scout fields and to apply fungicides in a timely manner. **To this date, no late blight has been reported on potatoes in the state of Maine.**

Last week we discovered late blight infested tomato plants being sold at many garden centers around the state. Cooperative Extension, the Maine Potato Board and the Maine Department of Agriculture have worked closely in order to get these plants removed from the market. It appears that these plants have been removed from the market and efforts have been made to communicate the gravity of this situation to home gardeners who may have purchased these plants. Please encourage home gardeners, especially those located close to your farm, to be carefully inspecting their plants. If a diseased plant is found, carefully destroy that plant.

We strongly encourage all growers to be carefully scouting for disease at this time.

Have a safe and happy 4th of July!

Sincerely,

James D. Dwyer
 Crops Specialist

Steven B. Johnson
 Crops Specialist

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 Pest Mgmt. Specialist

Canola:

Given the high value of canola in the market and the recent wet weather, growers should consider making a fungicide application for white mold control in canola. The disease is favored by high soil moisture preceding flowering and humid conditions during flowering. The disease starts by infecting flower petals and moves from there to other parts of the plant. Fungicides, depending upon material, should be applied between 10-50% flowering. Please refer to product label.

Regular Features

Aphids:

Minor aphid activity is being noted in our water pan trapping system. One should note, however, that many of the water pan traps have had issues with the amount of rainfall that has been occurring.

Recommended Economic Thresholds

Seed: 10% of plants with aphids, or 1 winged Green peach aphid
 Processing/Tablestock: 50% of plants with aphids, or 1 winged Green peach aphid

Colorado Potato Beetle:

Colorado potato beetle activity is being reported in all areas of the state of Maine. Adults are continuing to lay eggs, and some small larvae are being noted at this time. A few growers have reported finding adult beetles in fields treated with systemic materials at planting.

Recommended Economic Threshold

Adults: 25/50 plants surveyed
 Large Larvae: 75/50 plants surveyed
 Small Larvae: 200/50 plants surveyed

European Corn Borer:

We are currently capturing European corn borer moths throughout our scouting region. Although most of our pheromone style trap numbers remain low, one trap in the central Aroostook area recorded 47 moths in a 7-day period. Most traps are reporting 5-20 moths in a 7-day period. Low numbers of egg masses are beginning to be reported, and we anticipate that these numbers will increase with peak moth flight. Currently we have accumulated 716 mgdd. We expect peak moth flight and peak egg laying to occur between 750 and 825 mgdd.

Potato Flea Beetle:

Potato flea beetles are being found in some fields. Many times these insects will have an “edge effect” as they move into a field. The economic threshold for potato flea beetles is when the terminal leaflets have an average of 15 shot holes. Many times potato flea beetles can be controlled by spot spraying. Neonicotinoid materials applied at time of planting should control these early potato flea beetles.

Recommended Economic Threshold

15 “shot holes” per terminal leaflet

Disease:

With the frequent rain events, all areas are currently reporting a 5-day spray schedule. With the speed at which the plants are growing and the frequent rain events, frequency of protective fungicide application is critical for maintaining good fungicide protection.

It is important to note that the late blight that has been found on tomato plants at garden centers in Maine has been tested and has a GPI of 122/100 which is characteristic of US-14. This is a similar situation to what New York is currently experiencing.

The late blight that we have been dealing with over the last several years has been US-8. From the information that we have, US-14 is more or less the same virulence level as US-8., on potato.

To this date no late blight has been detected on potatoes in Maine.

