

PEST ALERT

Volume 09, No. 05

July 24, 2009

Dear Grower,

The crop continues to grow extremely rapidly. The “set” looks excellent, and the size of the tubers is impressive for this time of the year.

Potato late blight has been found in several additional locations, in Aroostook County and in Central Maine. Most of the finds have been made at extremely early stages of a field infection. This has allowed growers to deal with the situation early, and hopefully prevent the major amplification within a field.

We have enclosed a chart prepared by Steve Johnson of the fungicide materials available and their respective modes of action, effectiveness, rain fastness, and mobility in the plant. We hope that you will find this information helpful as you make disease suppression decisions.

Sincerely,

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Crops Specialist

Steven B. Johnson
Crops Specialist

James F. Dill
Pest Mgmt. Specialist

Please call the hotline at:
1-888-873-8623 (instate) Or 207-760-9476
For updates

Regular Features

Aphids:

Our scouts are continuing to find potato aphids in untreated potatoes, and this week several treated fields are now reporting low numbers of wingless potato aphids. We also noted low numbers of winged potato aphids on several sticky card traps this week. Seed growers should be scouting for aphids at this time.

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:

Our scouts are finding some locations with a mix of small and large larvae as well as a few adult beetles. Some of the plots were treated with a systemic at time of planting. Finding beetles in these locations is not surprising considering the rain that some of these fields have received, and that it is the 3rd week of July.

If a grower is going to make a follow-up treatment for Colorado potato beetles, please do not use a neonicotinoid material if a neonicotinoid material was used at time of planting. Resistance management will help keep these materials viable tools.

Recommended Economic Threshold

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

European Corn Borer:

This week all of our trap numbers are down significantly. The highest moth count this week was 7. Very few egg masses were noted by the scouts; no sites were at or approaching threshold levels.

Recommended Economic Threshold

60 moths trapped in a 7-day period
1 egg mass found for every 15 plants surveyed

Disease:

With the frequent shower activity and continued forecasted showers, all areas are currently reporting a 5-day spray schedule.

To this date, only one late blight find has been made in the St. John Valley area. Several locations have been found in Central and Southern Aroostook areas. There have also been several late blight finds in commercial potatoes in the Central Maine area.

Several additional finds have been made in roadside stands and home gardens in South-Central Maine and Southern Maine.

Comparison of *Phytophthora infestans* control materials, based on the **high-est** rate registered. (the chart is partially based on efforts of the Fungicides Sub-Group at a 2007 late blight workshop) From the Maine Potato Pest Control Guide 2009.

No=No Effect; P=Poor; F=Fair; G=Good; E=Excellent; ?=Unknown

Product	Effectiveness			Mode of Action			Rain Fastness	Mobility in Plant
	Leaf Blight	New Growth	Stem Blight	Tuber Blight	Protectant	Curative		
Bravo, etc.	G	No	P	No	G	No	G	Contact
Curate + Dithane, etc.	G	?	F	No	G	E	G	Translaminar + Contact
Dithane, etc.	G	No	P	No	G	No	F	Contact
Forum + Dithane	G	?	F	F	G	P	G	Translaminar + Contact
Gavel	E	No	P	F	E	No	G	Contact + Contact
Kocide, etc.	P	No	P	No	F	No	P	Contact
Omega	E	No	P	G	E	No	G	Contact
Previcur Flex + Dithane, etc.	G	G	G	No	G	G	E	Systemic + Contact
Ranman	E	No	P	E	E	No	E	Contact
Tanos	G	?	F	No	G	E	G	Translaminar + Contact
Revus Top	E	?	F	G	E	P	E	Translaminar + Contact
Tin	E	No	E	E	G	No	F	Contact