

Integrated Pest Management Program
 Houlton Road, P.O. Box 727
 Presque Isle, ME 04769

PEST ALERT

Volume 09, No. 06

July 31, 2009

Dear Grower,

The crop continues to grow rapidly and looks excellent. The frequent shower and rain events have produced extremely variable amounts of water across the state. Some areas have received nearly average rainfall even with the frequent shower and rain activity; while other areas have received significantly above average rainfall with some rain events dropping inches at a time.

Late blight in the southern portion of the state on mixed vegetable farms has become fairly prevalent on tomatoes and potatoes. Potato late blight has been found on commercial scale potatoes in the Central Maine area. Late blight has also been found in Southern and Central Aroostook in multiple locations. Only two small finds have been made in the St. John Valley area.

Most late blight finds have been very small and limited. Growers are doing an excellent job in finding the disease early and preventing the infield amplification which allows the disease to move rapidly across the field.

We strongly encourage all growers to continue to scout fields carefully.

Sincerely,

James D. Dwyer
 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

Regular Features

Aphids:

This week we have found English grain aphids on wheat in Aroostook. We have noted both winged and wingless forms of this aphid. This aphid does not tend to colonize potatoes but has documented ability to transmit PVY. As the grain ripens, these aphids will move looking for another host. We strongly suggest that seed growers scout their grain for English grain aphids. We have also noted Soybean aphids on soybeans in Aroostook. This species of aphid is in the same genus as Buckthorn aphid. It also does not colonize potatoes but has the ability to transmit PVY. In potatoes, the primary aphid species being found is Potato aphid. Trace numbers of winged Green peach aphids have been found on our yellow card traps this week.

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:

This week several locations exceeded the economic threshold for small Colorado potato beetle larvae. If growers are planning to treat these beetles and a neonicotinoid material was used at planting, please select another class of materials for a control option. This will minimize the further development of resistance to the neonicotinoid class of material.

Recommended Economic Threshold

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

European Corn Borer:

Trap numbers this week continue to be very low; the highest number reported was 7. Several entry sites have been noted in a couple of locations. Please remember that it will take a significant number of ECB larvae to create any type of economic impact.

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, all areas are reporting a 5-day fungicide spray schedule. Please be aware that with the blossoms of some varieties beginning to drop, many times blossoms will stick to leaflets and botrytis, also known as gray mold, will form. This can easily be confused with potato late blight. We are also beginning to see some White Mold forming on some stalks and damaged leaves.

