

## **Organic Production Schedule for Potatoes**

First and foremost, any pest control materials must meet the current standards as approved by organic certification bodies. **Check with the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association (MOFGA) or your certifier for up-to-date information on approved materials.**

Two sources are:

**<http://agr.wa.gov/foodanimal/organic/Certificate/2006/Materials/January2006BrandNameListSortedbyProductType.pdf>**

**[http://www.omri.org/crops\\_alpha.pdf](http://www.omri.org/crops_alpha.pdf)**

Adherence to pest control practices will not only improve the potato yield; it will help protect the potato industry in Maine.

### **Weeds**

Propane-fueled flammers have shown some promise in weed control. Mechanical weed removal is still the predominate means of weed control. While hand weeding has a place on a small scale, tillage is effective for larger operations. Preemergence cultivation tends to be risky, as the seed tubers and emerging potato sprouts are easily damaged. Adjust the cultivator to throw soil around the base of the potato plants and bury weed seedlings. Use standard S tines for between-row cultivation. Up to three cultivations may be required. Avoid very late cultivations, as root pruning is likely to occur. Cultivation should be complete and hilling performed by the time the plants are 10 inches high.

### **Insects**

Locate potato fields a tenth to a quarter of a mile away from last year's potato crop, or at least as far as possible. This will reduce the movement of overwintered Colorado potato beetles into the new potato crop. Leafhoppers, European corn borers, and aphids occur each year, with very high populations some years. Flammers provide some control. Approved insecticides may be permitted in organic production, but only as a last resort.

### **Chemical: Spinosad**

Remarks: Insecticide Resistance Group 5. Provides control of larvae. The reentry interval is 4 hours and the preharvest interval is 7 days.

<b>Trade Name</b>	<b>Pest</b>	<b>Rate per acre of product</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>Entrust 80%</b>	Colorado Potato Beetle European Corn Borer	1 to 2 oz	

### **Chemical: Pyrethrum**

Remarks: Insecticide Resistance Group 3. The reentry interval is 12 hours and the preharvest interval is 0 days.

LAST UPDATED ON

Monday, April 13, 2009

<b>Trade Name</b>	<b>Pest</b>	<b>Rate per acre of product</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>PyGanic®</b>	Leafhoppers	4.5 to 18 oz	

**Crop Protection**  
**EC 5.0 II**

**Chemical: Azadirachtin**

Remarks: Insecticide Resistance Group 26. Provides better control of larvae than adults. The reentry interval is 0 hours and the preharvest interval is 0 days.

<b>Trade Name</b>	<b>Pest</b>	<b>Rate per acre of product</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>Neemix 4.5</b>	Colorado Potato Beetle	2 to 16 oz	Best control achieved with higher rates. Slower acting than Bt materials.
<b>Ecozin 3EC</b>		8 oz	Provides control of larvae.

**Diseases**

Late blight and early blight are the two main disease threats to potato plants. Of the two, late blight is the real threat. Late blight can spread and affect potato production miles away. Late blight is a community disease that needs community-wide attention and response. Sanitation is the best defense against late blight. Eliminate cull piles and control volunteer potato sprouting in the spring. These are the cheapest and best ways to reduce inoculum. Preventative copper sprays can be used for late blight control. Copper is toxic to many forms of life and tends to accumulate in soils over extended use. Monitoring copper levels in the soil is required.

**Chemical: Copper**

Remarks: Fungicide Resistance Group M1. There are some incompatibilities with coppers. The reentry interval is 24 hours and the preharvest interval is 0 days.

<b>Trade Name</b>	<b>Rate per acre of product</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>Champion WP</b>	1 to 4 lb	