



Vegetable Crop Update

A newsletter for commercial potato and vegetable growers prepared by the University of Wisconsin-Madison vegetable research and extension specialists



No. 23 – September 6, 2020

In This Issue

Disease forecasting and updates for early and late blight in potato, cucurbit downy mildew updates

Calendar of Events

December 1-3, 2020 – Midwest Food Producers Association Annual Convention/Processing Crops Conference – *Virtual – details to follow*

January 24-26, 2021 – WI Fresh Vegetable Growers Association Educational Conference, Kalahari, Wisconsin Dells, WI (possible remote options)

February 2-4, 2021 – UW-Madison Div. of Extension & WPVGA Grower Education Conference, Holiday Inn, Stevens Point, WI (possible remote options)

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Current P-Day (Early Blight) and Disease Severity Value (Late Blight) Accumulations (Many thanks to Ben Bradford, UW-Madison Entomology; Stephen Jordan, UW-Madison Plant Pathology). A P-Day value of ≥ 300 indicates the threshold for early blight risk and triggers preventative fungicide application. A DSV of ≥ 18 indicates the threshold for late blight risk and triggers preventative fungicide application. Red text in table indicates threshold has been met/surpassed. Weather data used in these calculations comes from weather stations that are placed in potato fields in each of the four locations. Data are available in multiple formats for each station at: <https://vegpath.plantpath.wisc.edu/dsv/>

Location	Planting Date	50% Emergence Date	Disease Severity Values 9/6/2020	Potato Physiological Days 9/6/2020
Grand Marsh	Early Apr 17	May 18	161	863
	Mid Apr 25	May 26	158	808
	Late May 6	June 1	155	767
Hancock	Early Apr 8	May 18	78	843
	Mid Apr 20	May 25	76	792
	Late May 4	May 30	73	754
Plover	Early Apr 10	May 23	136	804
	Mid Apr 20	May 30	130	750
	Late May 5	June 1	130	738
Antigo	Early May 14	June 5	78	720
	Mid May 24	June 10	78	683
	Late Jun 1	June 17	77	635

Late Blight Management: Our DSVs are reported here from emergence to September 6. Over the past week, we saw low accumulations (just 5 to 11 DSVs over the course of a week; reminder, max potential DSV per day is 8 under optimum disease conditions). Plantings of potatoes in the Grand Marsh, Hancock, Plover, and Antigo areas should receive routine (~weekly) preventative fungicide application for late blight management. During senescence to harvest, tubers remain susceptible to late blight. In particular, for crops fated for long term storage, continued application of mancozeb-containing fungicide can provide management of the tuber phase of late blight which can happen during spore movement and ‘washout’ events. This late season fungicide treatment is especially important if fields are/were proximal

to any known infections, and if the maturity of crops varies greatly within your area (due to risk of foliar late blight and spore availability).

Early Blight Management: PDays are exceeding the threshold of 300 for early planted potatoes in Grand Marsh, Hancock, Plover, and Antigo areas. For more information about fungicide selections, please see the Potato section of the A3422 Commercial Vegetable Production Guide for Wisconsin, 2020. <https://cdn.shopify.com/s/files/1/0145/8808/4272/files/A3422-2020.pdf>

National late blight update: No new reports of late blight in Wisconsin. Across the US however, there were new reports: on Aug 20 US-23 was confirmed on tomato and potato in Chautauqua County in western NY state. So far this season, there have been just two WI confirmations of late blight from tomato (Pierce Co.) and potato (Adams Co. US-23) this season. No widespread movement from these sites as far as I'm aware. Earlier this season, late blight had been reported in North Carolina (tomato US-23), Washington, and it was found in British Columbia, western Canada (Delta and Surrey) over a month ago now. The site: <https://usablight.org/map/> includes reports as they are submitted in the US. Previous reports documented the disease in AL, GA, NC, NY, FL, TN, WA, and WI. Where the late blight pathogen has been tested in the US so far this year, the clonal lineage has been US-23.

National cucurbit downy mildew update: No downy mildew reported from WI at this time through my Vegetable Pathology Lab or the UW Plant Disease Diagnostic Clinic. Reports to date, have come from: AL, CT, DE, GA, IL, IN, KS, KY, MA, MD, ME, MI, MS, NC, NH, NJ, NY, OH, Ontario & Quebec Canada, PA, SC, TN, VA, and WV. No forecasted movement of the pathogen in our direction, with prevailing air moving eastward. <https://cdm.ipmpipe.org/forecasting/>