



Vegetable Crop Update

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

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Division of Extension
University of Wisconsin-Madison

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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/>

| <i>Location</i> | <i>Planting Date</i> | <i>50% Emergence Date</i> | <i>Disease Severity Values 9/20/2020</i> | <i>Potato Physiological Days 9/20/2020</i> |
|--------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|--|--|
| Grand Marsh | Early Apr 17 | May 18 | 168 | 943 |
| | Mid Apr 25 | May 26 | 165 | 888 |
| | Late May 6 | June 1 | 162 | 847 |
| Hancock | Early Apr 8 | May 18 | 83 | 926 |
| | Mid Apr 20 | May 25 | 81 | 875 |
| | Late May 4 | May 30 | 78 | 837 |
| Plover | Early Apr 10 | May 23 | 141 | 873 |
| | Mid Apr 20 | May 30 | 135 | 819 |
| | Late May 5 | June 1 | 135 | 806 |
| Antigo | Early May 14 | June 5 | 83 | 784 |
| | Mid May 24 | June 10 | 83 | 746 |
| | Late Jun 1 | June 17 | 82 | 699 |

Late Blight Management: Our DSVs are reported here from emergence to September 20. Over the past week, we saw extremely low accumulations (just 2-4 DSVs over the course of a week; reminder, max potential DSV per day is 4 under optimum disease conditions). 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).

National late blight update: We confirmed a home garden tomato late blight sample from St. Croix County during this past week (reported on 9/15; original submission 9/11 by photo; not yet typed for clonal lineage). Across the US, there were also no new reports that I am aware of over the past week. 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, LA, 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/>