

Potato Disease Advisory
May 14, 2007
Cooperative Extension System
University of Delaware

Bob Mulrooney, Extension Plant Pathologist

Late blight Advisory

This is the first FAX report for 2007. An updated report will be also appearing in Weekly Crop Update on Fridays. Reports will be compiled and faxed weekly for now. If you would like a FAX or email report please call 302-831-4865, or email bobmul@udel.edu

We are using the E-WEATHER SERVICE from SkyBit, Inc as we have in the past. The service determines specific requested weather parameters (temperature, relative humidity and rainfall) based on calculations of data from the nearest National Weather Service stations. This weather data is used in the WISDOM software program for predicting late blight and making spray recommendations.

Disease Severity Value (DSV) Accumulation as of May 13, 2007 is as follows:

Location: Broad Acres, Zimmerman Farm, Rt 9, Greenrow: May 2

Remember that 18 DSV's is the threshold to begin a spray program for late blight

Date	Total DSV	Spray Recommendation
5/2- 5/9	2	none
5/10- 5/11	4	none
5/11- 5/13	4	none

Disease severity values have been accumulating very slowly so far this season. The threat of late blight from seed infection is low, but more of a potential problem than last year. Remember that these values are for potatoes that would have about 50% emergence and made a row that you can see on or before May 2.

Growers who do not want to rely only on the DSV calculations for scheduling fungicide applications should apply at least 1-2 sprays of mancozeb (Dithane, Manzate, Pencozeb, Manex II) or Bravo (chlorothalonil) before plants canopy down the row. Late blight has not been a problem here in Delaware for many years. Unless you have seed from an unknown source the risk of late blight is low. For specific fungicide recommendations, see the 2007 Delaware Commercial Vegetable Production Recommendations Book.