

Potato Disease Advisory #1
May 13, 2010
Cooperative Extension System
University of Delaware

Bob Mulrooney, Extension Plant Pathologist

Late blight Advisory

This is the first report for 2010. If you would like a FAX or email report please call 302-831-4865, or email bobmul@udel.edu and request it.

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 early blight and making spray recommendations. Our location this year is:

Location: Art and Keith Wicks Farm, Rt 9, Little Creek, Kent County.
Greenrow: May 6

Date	DSV	Total DSV	Spray Recommendation
5/1 – 5/10	0	0	none
5/12	3	3	none

Planting was delayed due to the wet weather this early this spring so we are about a week behind last year when comparing greenrow on early planted potatoes. Disease severity values have been accumulating very slowly this year especially compared to last season. The threat of late blight from seed infection is low, but there was some in Maine last season. Be vigilant anyway, given this recent weather pattern. **The first late blight fungicide application is recommended once 18 Disease Severity Values (DSVs) accumulate from green row.** Green row occurred approximately on May 6, 2010. Please be vigilant and keep a look out for suspect infections on young plants coming from infected seed pieces! Growers opting not to use the forecast system should put the first late blight fungicide application on when the plants are 6 inches tall, and repeat every 7 days. There are numerous fungicides now labeled for late blight control; however, use of mancozeb (Manzate, Penncozeb, or Dithane) is still a very effective early season protective fungicide to use.

Only 3 DSV's have accumulated so far for any potatoes that established green row prior to and up to May 6.