

Potato Disease Advisory #2
May 12, 2009
Cooperative Extension System
University of Delaware

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Late blight Advisory

This report will be also appearing in Weekly Crop Update. 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. I have switched to the modified Blitecast prediction system that Skybit uses for predicting DSV's. This weather data is used in the WISDOM software program for making spray recommendations and accumulating p-days for early blight forecasting. Our location this year is:

Location: Shadybrook Farms, Little Creek, DE in Kent County.
Greenrow: May 1

Date	DSV	Total DSV	Spray Recommendation
5/1	3	3	
5/2	4	7	
5/3	2	9	
5/4- 5/8	20	29	5- day spray interval
5/9- 5/11	0	29	10- day spray interval

Disease severity values have been accumulating very quickly since the beginning of this rainy period. The threat of late blight from seed infection is low to medium, but there was some in Maine last season. Be vigilant anyway, given this recent weather pattern. Apply sprays of mancozeb (Dithane, Manzate, Pencozeb, Manex II), Gavel or Bravo (chlorothalonil) now and again before plants canopy down the row. See the 2009 Commercial Vegetable Recommendations- Delaware for more information on fungicides.

Fortunately late blight has not been a problem here in Delaware for many years and unless you have seed from an unknown source the risk of late blight is low, but the weather was perfect for it if it was present on seed.