

**Potato Disease Advisory #20**  
**July 21, 2009**  
**Cooperative Extension System**  
**University of Delaware**

Bob Mulrooney, Extension Plant Pathologist

**Disease Severity Value (DSV) Accumulation as of July 20, 2009 is as follows:**

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

Date	LATE BLIGHT			EARLY BLIGHT
	Daily DSV	Total DSV	Spray Recs	Accumulated P- days*
7/1	2	114	10-day interval	519
7/2	1	115	10-day interval	528
7/3- 7/5	0	115	10-day interval	555
7/6-7/8	0	115	10-day interval	581
7/9- 7/12	0	115	10-day interval	616
7/13- 7/15	0	115	10-day interval	641
7/16	0	115	10-day interval	647
7/17- 7/18	2	117	10-day interval	662
7/19- 7/20	0	117	10- day interval	680

**There have been no new late blight reports on potato or tomato from DE. There have been several scattered reports of late blight on tomato in the region recently.**

Current conditions here have been too dry for late blight and the humidity too low except for the short period last Friday and Saturday. We could see some favorable weather starting today if the thundershowers materialize. Most potatoes will be or are close to maturity.

The following are comments made by Dr. Bill Frey at Cornell University who is an authority on the fungus and its genetic makeup and posted here with his permission. These comments were made looking at the strains found in NY and considering the other reports from the region.

“My preliminary conclusion is that there may be only one strain that is causing this very widespread outbreak and it can cause infections on both tomatoes and potatoes and that it is insensitive to metalaxyl (Ridomil). I realize that some of the field reports suggest that this strain is more aggressive on tomato than on potato, and that could easily be the case. Our results are entirely consistent with those reports. However, there have been some serious outbreaks on potatoes, so potato growers should not relax.

I want to emphasize that the sample size is still small, so the conclusions are definitely preliminary, and could change if new samples are different from the ones analyzed to date.”