Virginia Potato Disease Advisory – 2017
Sponsored by the Virginia Irish Potato Board
April 25, 2017

This is the first Virginia Potato Disease Advisory for 2017. We want to thank the Virginia Irish Potato Board for funding the network of sensors and our weekly reports. Thanks to the VIPB and all the participating producers! In addition to our disease predictions, see below for pictures of late blight on potato.

Conditions continue to be damp and thus disease values have accumulated for late and early blight over this past week. The late blight threshold for fungicide applications is 18 DSVs and 300 P-Days for early blight. **To date we have not exceeded or come close to these thresholds. Thus, I am recommending no sprays at this moment.** Recent rainfalls may lead to increased risk next week. We will keep you posted. In addition, we have received no reports of late blight in our region to date.
As always, please let us know if you have any questions.

Late Blight Disease Severity Values (DSV) accumulated to date:

Location	Total DSV	Spray Recommendation
Horntown	0	None
New Church	0	None
Painter	1	None
Birdsnest	2	None
Seaview	2	None
Kiptopeke	0	None

Early Blight P-Days accumulated to date:

Location	Total P-Days	Spray Recommendation
Horntown	149	None
New Church	150	None
Painter	152	None
Birdsnest	154	None
Seaview	160	None
Kiptopeke	157	None

Weekly Potato Disease Summary

Late Blight of Potato

Causal Organism: Late blight of potato is caused by the airborne fungus (Oomycete) *Phytophthora infestans*. Late blight of potato is sporadic on the Eastern Shore of Virginia, but can be devastating if conditions favoring the disease persist. Trace amounts of late blight are commonly observed on the Eastern Shore, but the last significant outbreak was in 2009. Disease is favored by moderate temperatures (60-80F) with excessive rainfall or dews leading to high leaf moisture. Also of note, late blight of potato was the disease that caused the Irish Potato Famine in the 1840's which led to the immigration or death of over 3 million Irish. The late blight pathogen can also parasitize tomato.

Symptomology: Infected potato leaves show 'greasy' lesions that usually originate from the tip of the leaves (Figures 1&3). During periods of high moisture gray sporulation can be seen on infected leaves. If infection persists or becomes systemic, tubers may become discolored exhibiting black and greasy lesions (Figure 2). Infected tubers may also transmit the disease to subsequent crops if they are used as seed pieces. In severe infections, complete defoliation can occur if appropriate disease control measures are not employed. Late blight reports in the USA can be monitored at www.usablight.org

Control: Use certified seed pieces to ensure that you are not transmitting late blight. Prior to disease appearance, growers should utilize a protectant fungicide (ie. chlorothalonil or mancozeb) once sprays are either deemed necessary by the VPDA or if the disease is present within the region. Once the disease is either present on the Eastern Shore, surrounding areas or within your fields, systemic fungicides should be used for disease suppression. Systemic fungicides recommended for late blight control include: Curzate, Forum, Gavel, Omega, Orondis Opti, Orondis Ultra, Previcur Flex, Ranman, Revus, Revus Top, Tanos, and Zing!. For potato only, Super Tin or Agri Tin may also be utilized. As always, follow pesticide labels for rates and usage. Crop destruction is an option if disease is discovered in an isolated area (perhaps where the sprayer misses) or in its EARLY stages. Thorough scouting of potato fields for this disease cannot be emphasized strongly enough.

Figure 1.

Figure 2.

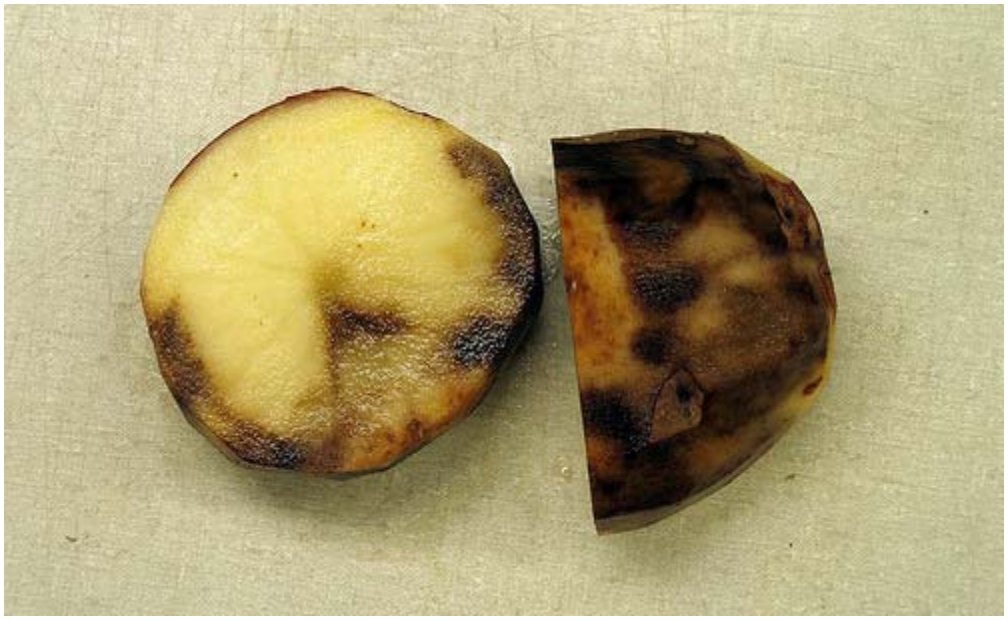

Figure 3.

Figure 4. Sample from 6/2/16