

-LATE BLIGHT ALERT FOR TOMATO GROWERS-

OSU Extension- Erik Draper (August, 2015)

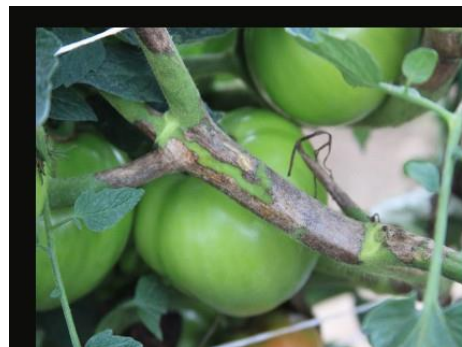


Multiple Late Blight infections on tomato leaves

Commercial vegetable growers have better fungicide options available for their use to manage the LATE BLIGHT fungus. Dr. Sally Miller's recommendations are: "Protect plants with chlorothalonil or mancozeb fungicides (protectants) before the disease appears. Good protectants are chlorothalonil (Bravo, Equus, Echo) and mancozeb (Penncozeb, Manzate, Dithane)– use according to label instructions. Under cool, wet conditions when late blight is likely, use one of the following fungicides **ALWAYS** tank mixed with one of the above protectants: Curzate, Forum, Presidio, Previcur Flex, Ranman, Reason, Revus Top (except on small fruited varieties) or Tanos". These products should be applied according to the label, but if the conditions remain cool and wet, then use the lower end of the application window. For example, if the label states 5-7 days, then reapply on the fifth day. **DO NOT SKIP or MISS—BY EVEN ONE DAY, THE REAPPLICATION OF FUNGICIDE!** If rain is in the weather forecast, it is better to apply sooner, before the rain event, rather than waiting until a day or two after the rain if your fungicide re-application window will expire!

Scout fields intensively for symptoms of the late blight fungus and destroy any infected plants. Growers with fields in which late blight has already been found, should also consider applying Curzate, which has curative activity, combined with a full rate of a protectant fungicide (again Bravo®, Equus®, Echo®) or mancozeb fungicides). When using an intensive fungicide program, you **MUST** alternate or change fungicides to use different modes of action. **DO NOT use just one, single product or fungicide** throughout the growing season. Fungicides like Previcur Flex, Presidio, Ranman and Tanos must **ALWAYS** be tank-mixed with a protectant fungicide, like Bravo®, Equus®, Echo® or mancozeb. If late blight has been a problem in a potato field, vines should be killed 2-3 weeks prior to harvest to minimize infection of tubers."

All that can be done is to remain vigilant and be aware of any reports of late blight infections that are confirmed within the state of Ohio. Let's keep our fingers crossed and hopefully our tomatoes will be fresh from the garden for the rest of the year! If there are ANY QUESTIONS, call ERIK @ 440.834-4656.



Late Blight infection on tomato stem



Late Blight infections on fruit of "Mt. Fresh" tomatoes



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