



# Vegetable Crop Update

A newsletter for commercial potato and vegetable growers prepared by the University of Wisconsin-Madison vegetable research and extension specialists

No. 17– June 24, 2015

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Late blight updates

## Calendar of Events

**July 15** – UW-Hancock ARS Field Day, 12:30PM, Hancock, WI

**July 17** – Rhinelander State Farm Field Day, Lelah Starks Elite Found. Seed Farm, Rhinelander, WI

**August 19** – UW-Arlington ARS Agronomy/Soils Field Day, 8AM, Arlington, WI

**August 20** – UWEX Langlade County Airport Field Day, Antigo, WI

**August 25-27** – Wisconsin Farm Technology Days, Statz Bros., Inc. Farm, Sun Prairie, WI

**September 1** – UW-Arlington ARS Organic Agriculture Field Day, Arlington, WI

**Amanda J. Gevens, Assistant Professor & Extension Vegetable Plant Pathologist, UW-Madison, Dept. of Plant Pathology, 608-890-3072 (office), Email: [gevens@wisc.edu](mailto:gevens@wisc.edu). Veg Pathology Webpage: <http://www.plantpath.wisc.edu/wivegdis/>.**

**Late Blight has been confirmed in commercial potatoes in northern Adams County.** Yesterday, June 23, 2015, late blight was confirmed in a commercial field in northern Adams County. The field was only at ~40% emergence and the disease appeared to have been initiated by seedborne inoculum. Once the sample is genotyped, I will update this report. Recall that most of last year's late blight was of the US-23 type which was sensitive to the phenylamide fungicides such as mefenoxam and metalaxyl. We did have a few reports of US-8 late blight in WI last year as well. US-8 is resistant to mefenoxam/metalaxyl.

Scouting in higher risk areas such as around irrigation pivots field edges and along tree lines is important – however – infection can certainly occur in the rest of the field as well. Conditions have been favorable for this disease. Hot spots in field should be destroyed to limit sporulation. Anti-sporulant fungicides should be included in the spray program to limit spore production in surrounding rows/fields.

If you suspect/detect late blight, have the disease confirmed (free diagnostics through my lab and the UWEX Plant Disease Diagnostic Clinic) and we can genotype for further information on the nature of the pathogen.

### **Fungicides are critical for protection of potato and tomato crops at this time.**

There is not one recommended fungicide program for all late blight susceptible potato (and tomato) fields in Wisconsin. Fungicide selections may vary based on type of inoculum introduction, proximity to infected fields, crop stage, late blight strain, and other diseases that may be in need of management. This article provides general guidance to assist in development of your fungicide program. Please see UWEX Veg Crop Updates article on fungicide selections from June 5 at link below.

<http://www.plantpath.wisc.edu/wivegdis/pdf/2015/June%205,%202015.pdf> or a listing of 2015 WI potato late blight fungicides:

<http://www.plantpath.wisc.edu/wivegdis/pdf/2015/Potato%20Late%20Blight%20Fungicides%202015.pdf>

Nationally, in the past week, there were no new diagnoses of late blight reported to [www.usablight.org](http://www.usablight.org). So far in 2015, there have been confirmations of late blight (US-23) in FL, CA (US-11), NC (strain not yet determined), and TX (not reported on usablight.org/strain not yet identified).