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Pest Alert

AUGUST 23 VEGNET REPORT

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During the last week, daily high temperatures averaged in the mid to upper 80s at most sites in the region, except for Rocky Ford, Garden City, Tribune and Torrington in the low 90s and Center in the mid 70s. During the last week, rainfall averaged less than one-half inch at all sites; however, Delta, Rocky Ford and Sterling each received more than six-tenths of an inch. The upcoming week is forecasted at average to above average moisture and above average temperature at all sites. Western Colorado sites are again forecasted at above average moisture and below average temperature.

Continue to scout crops at least weekly for evidence of pest activity. Check with your local consultants and other experts on crop status and the initiation or maintenance of disease protection strategies when either disease is confirmed in the nearby region and/or a disease threat does exist. Remember to rotate fungicide chemistry when possible to avoid selection of fungicide-resistant strains.

DRY BEAN Pests:

As of August 23, the dry bean crop continues with the final maturity phases, and scattered reports of rust problems continue to come in from southwestern Nebraska and the eastern border of Colorado. Section 18 labels for Tilt were activated earlier in northeastern Colorado and in Nebraska (August 1 cut-off date for the final application). Most bean fields are within 7 – 10 days of knifing, and light infection (fewer than 25 pustules per plant) should not affect yield or seed size if adequate moisture is present.

Common bacterial blight persists in many fields, with additional infection evident from bacterial brown spot in many parts of eastern Colorado, western Kansas and southwestern Nebraska. Maintain the copper bactericide program on a 7 – 10 day schedule until 14 – 21 days to knifing, especially for light red kidney and yellow beans. As with the rust fungicides and plant maturity, it is now too late to continue to apply coppers or attempt any last minute rescue efforts on diseased plants in most fields.

Continue to emphasize irrigation water management to extend intervals between irrigations to reduce excess surface moisture beneath the plant canopy which favors white mold development on maturing pods.

Pay attention to harvest operations to maximize seed quality and consumer acceptability by reducing seed-coat checks and splits during combining and handling.

ONION Pests:

As of August 23, bacterial diseases still persist in the eastern half of the state and some will carry over into harvest and storage. Fungicides like the EBDCs (Maneb, Mancozeb, Dithane, Penncozeb) tank mixed with copper based bactericides (Kocide, Champ, Nu Cop among others) continue to be effective when applied at full labeled rates with a non-ionic surfactant in sufficient gallonage. This tank mix will also help reduce other threats such as Botrytis Blast, Downy Mildew and Purple Blotch if present.

Continue to scout fields weekly for early or renewed signs of disease in the field or region. Maintain applications of protectant fungicides including the EBDCs, coppers, Bravo and Rovral in high gallonage plus adjuvant for good coverage on a 7 to 10 day interval. Rotate fungicide chemistry every other application when possible.

If Downy Mildew reappears in the region, continue to include EBDCs and/or Ridomil tank mixes in the spray program. However, recent high temperatures have reduced the threat of serious damage by Downy Mildew.

Botrytis Blast may appear with the recent cool weather, and can be managed with the EBDC and Rovral type of fungicides applied on a 7 – 10 day schedule. Include Rovral in the last 1 – 2 sprays to reduce carryover of Botrytis spores from the field through harvest into the curing & storage shed.

As we approach harvest, remember that air curing in the field and storage shed is VITAL to remove sources of moisture from the neck tissue and outer scales, thereby reducing the ability of bacterial and fungal pathogens to colonize and infect bulbs in the field and during storage.

POTATO Pests:

The Late Blight disease model has exceeded the threshold throughout Colorado, even assuming a late May emergence date with hours greater than 80 % relative humidity. The first report of Late Blight was confirmed August 5 in the San Luis Valley. There are still no confirmed reports of Late Blight in northeastern Colorado or the surrounding region.

Maintain protectant sprays (EBDCs, Bravo, Polyram, Quadris, etc.) on a 5 to 7 day interval for Early Blight. If Late Blight is detected in your region, incorporate newer chemistry such as Acrobat, Curzate and others.

The majority of fields have been or soon will be desiccated in northeastern Colorado. Remember to thoroughly destroy foliage and potential sources of inoculum which can threaten later maturing fields downwind. (Schwartz)

POLICY PAPER ON ROLE OF USE-RELATED INFORMATION PUBLISHED

On July 14, 1999, EPA published a Federal Register notice announcing the availability of a draft document for public comment- The Role of Use-Related Information in Pesticide Risk Assessment and Risk Management. This paper is being released for a 60-day public comment period, as part of a process developed in conjunction with the Tolerance Reassessment Advisory Committee (TRAC) to ensure that EPA's policies related to implementing the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA) are transparent and open to public participation. The paper announced in this notice summarizes the types of use-related information used by EPA in risk assessment and risk management, where the data come from, and how the Agency employs these data.

Colorado State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture and Colorado counties cooperating.
Cooperative Extension programs are available to all without discrimination.

The Federal Register notice includes questions on which EPA is particularly seeking comment. The paper is available through the OPP Docket and on the Internet at:
www.epa.gov/pesticides/trac/science/.

Comments can be submitted in person, by mail, or electronically as described in the Federal Register notices. The Federal Register notice is available electronically at www.epa.gov/fedrgstr. (McDonald)

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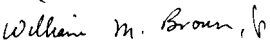
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Where trade names are used, no discrimination is intended, and no endorsement by the Cooperative Extension Service is implied.

Sincerely,


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