



Pest Alert

Vol. 16 No. 20

September 24, 1999

**SEPTEMBER 13 VEGNET REPORT
NOW IS THE TIME TO BEGIN PUTTING THE LAWN TO BED
STILL PROBLEMS WITH GETTING PEST ALERT HARD COPIES OUT**

SEPTEMBER 13 VEGNET REPORT

During the last week, daily high temperatures averaged in the mid 70s to mid 80s at most sites in the region. During the last week, rainfall averaged less than one-quarter inch at all sites, except for Garden City with 0.3 inches. The upcoming week is forecasted at average moisture, and above average temperature for the region.

Continue to scout late onion or potato crops at least weekly for evidence of pest and disease activity. Check with your local consultants and other experts on crop status and the 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 September 13, the dry bean crop continues to be harvested in most areas except where rains have caused problems lately. 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 September 13, bacterial diseases still persist throughout the state and 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.

Continue to scout fields weekly for early or renewed signs of fungal diseases 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. Recent low temperatures have increased the threat of a late outbreak by Downy

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

Mildew. The west slope has experienced a moderate to severe outbreak of Downy Mildew, as well as some bacterial diseases with the moist weather that they experienced a couple of weeks ago. Last week's warm, dry conditions should reduce the immediate threat to late crops on the west slope.

Botrytis Blast may appear as tip death and spotting on foliage, in addition to Neck Rot, and both diseases 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. Do NOT apply heat (air temperatures greater than 85 F) to onions within the first 5 – 7 days of curing; high temperatures may actually promote more damage from bacteria responsible for Bacterial Soft Rot and fungi responsible for Black Mold.

SANITATION ALERT: Remember to thoroughly clean equipment of crop/diseased debris and soil when travelling from field to field, and especially from one onion region to another. If you purchase equipment, insist that the seller provide evidence of steam or high pressure cleaning prior to transport to your facility and fields to avoid the introduction of new pests or diseases. A case in point is the *Pantoea* Bacterial Soft Rot from the Rocky Ford/Swink region; you DO NOT want to relocate this pathogen which is proving to be extremely difficult to manage.

And as a general IPM strategy, always destroy previous onion crop debris and culls to reduce pest carryover and threat to nearby or downwind onion fields for next season.

POTATO Pests:

The first reports of Late Blight was confirmed August 5 in the San Luis Valley. In addition, late blight was confirmed last week on some late chipper fields in the Front Range of Colorado. These late infections probably originated from air-borne spores that were blown in from other potato production areas such as the San Luis Valley where late blight started earlier this season, presumably from infected tubers or volunteers.

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 that can threaten later maturing fields downwind. (Schwartz)

NOW IS THE TIME TO BEGIN PUTTING THE LAWN TO BED

As we go into the fall and the weather is changing it is time to be thinking about what to do for the lawn in preparation for the winter and next spring. While fall applications of slow release fertilizers are recommended (refer to Dr. Koski, 970-491-7070) thatch is something that in many lawns is a major problem. A recent article on the West Slope listserv by Megan Korzep in Eagle County is very timely. Megan is the Cooperative Extension agent in Eagle County and joined us a little over a year ago. She studied at Purdue where she took a master's in turf pathology. Megan writes;

“THATCH: partially decomposed stem and root tissue that develops in the organic layer between the base of the turf plant and true soil. It tends to be a problem on Kentucky blue, bent, and fine fescue, but NOT on tall fescue, wheatgrass, brome grass or buffalograss.

THE GOOD: small amount (less than 1/2") = cushion that increases wear tolerance in the turf; insulates soil from water loss and extreme changes in temperature.

THE BAD: too much (more than 1/2") = reduces water, fertilizer and pesticide movement into the soil; if thatch is thick enough, grass roots may no longer be in contact with soil, and this can result in drought stress or winter kill.

WHY: turf excessively watered (shallow, frequent watering) promotes thatch. Heavy use of pesticides also promotes thatch because they may destroy beneficials that normally break down thatch. #1 thatch promoter: heavy applications of quick release (soluble) N fertilizers. Excessive application rates add plant residues to the system faster than they can be decomposed. As a result, thatch accumulates.

Perhaps tying for the #1 spot is soil compaction.

HOW TO CHECK: turf with thick thatch is spongy; mowers will scalp areas with excessive thatch. To estimate thatch depth, use a knife, spade or soil probe to remove a small section of turf that extends deep enough to reach the true surface of the soil. Measure the amount of thatch (section of the profile with partially decomposed turf parts). Thatch layers thicker than 1/2" should be dethatched.

HOW TO MINIMIZE: First, don't do the things that promote thatch build-up (see above), then CORE AERATES in SPRING and FALL!

CORE AERIFICATION IS A MORE BENEFICIAL MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUE THAN POWER RAKING! A single aeration using a machine equipped with 1/2 inch diameter tines will remove about 10% of the thatch from a lawn if enough passes are made over the lawn to result in an average 2" spacing between holes.

Deep power raking of a thatchy lawn can be damaging and often removes a substantial portion of the living turf. Power raking does not relieve soil compaction as well as core aerification --- and remember, soil compaction is one of the top dogs for thatch promotion" (Megan Korzep, Eagle Coop. Extn, (970) 328-8775).

STILL PROBLEMS WITH GETTING PEST ALERT HARD COPIES OUT

Well, I am still embarrassed. Many of you will have now received all of your August issues and the first September issue at the same time. I am sorry. We hope that we have it fixed but to be honest, I am not sure.

What evidently happened, as far as I can find out, is:

The Pest Alert is compiled in the department and sent via the web to the campus publishing group who then prints and addresses it. It is then mailed out. That group got a new machine that it turns out does not do the addressing. Minimum of 2-3 weeks (i.e., issues delayed) lost there.

Therefore they turned the addressing over to the campus mail service that has only one machine. The disc publications sent to the mail service with the address list could not be read by the mail service machine. By the time we traced it down and found out what was wrong, another 2 weeks (i.e., issues delayed) had passed.

Our office is transcribing all the addresses into a format that the mail service machine can read. But mail service advises me that it takes at least 3 days to get the mail addressed and then mailed.

Our dilemma now is that instead of working with one group that did the whole shooting match, we now have to work with 2. One of which is potentially going to delay it to the point that the time sensitive nature of the Pest Alert will be lost.

Those of you that are receiving the Pest Alert via Email are OK. It is the best way at this time to go. As I pointed out in an earlier issue (that most of you probably don't have yet), we are going to reconsider the future of the Pest Alert this winter. I am going to recommend discontinuing the hard copy version of the Pest Alert and going to the Departmental Web page. This makes sense because:

- Most people using the Pest Alert have access to computers and the Web.
- The Web provides more rapid distribution and truly becomes an "alert".
- We can then incorporate more pictures and even color, which is critical to describing many diseases and pests.
- It is then free. A very good point because I am losing money on the hard copy Pest Alert and have to make it up from other grant money areas. Not fun.

I welcome and need your comments and suggestions. (Brown)

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.

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)

CONTRIBUTORS

K. George Beck, Extension Weed Specialist, Perennial and Range (970) 491-7568;
gbeck@lamar.colostate.edu

William M. Brown, Extension Plant Pathologist, IPM and General (970) 491-6470;
wbrown@ceres.agsci.colostate.edu

Whitney S. Cranshaw, Extension Entomologist, Urban and Horticulture (970) 491-6781;
wcransha@ceres.agsci.colostate.edu

Sandra McDonald, Extension Specialist, Environmental and Pesticide Education (970) 491-6027;
smcdonal@lamar.colostate.edu

Scott J. Nissen, Extension Weed Specialist, Row Crops (970) 491-3489;
snissen@lamar.colostate.edu

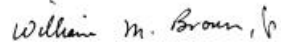
Frank B. Peairs, Extension Entomologist, Field Crops (970) 491-5945;
fbpeairs@lamar.colostate.edu

Howard F. Schwartz, Extension Plant Pathologist, Row and Vegetable Crops (970) 491-6987;
hfspp@lamar.colostate.edu

Philip H. Westra, Extension Weed Specialist, Row Crops (970) 491-5219;
pwestra@ceres.agsci.colostate.edu

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

Sincerely,



William M. Brown, Jr.
Extension Plant Pathologist