

# Pest Alert

Vol. 18 No. 10

July 20, 2001

**NOTE: BEGINNING JANUARY, 2001, PEST ALERT WILL ONLY BE AVAILABLE ON THE WEB. FOR ELECTRONIC NOTIFICATION, PLEASE EMAIL YOUR ADDRESS TO [bspm@lamar.colostate.edu](mailto:bspm@lamar.colostate.edu). (Check out our complete web site!)**

**POTATO UPDATE (P 1)  
ONION UPDATE (P 2)  
DRY BEAN UPDATE (P 2)  
ORGANIC FARMING IN THE U.S. (P 3)  
STRONGER CONSUMER INFORMATION PROGRAM ANNOUNCED  
FOR CCA-TREATED WOOD (P3)**

## POTATO UPDATE

July 16, 2001 UPDATE: Earlier in June, Potato Late Blight Models exceeded the threshold level of 18 Severity values at various locations across northeastern Colorado. However, there are still no confirmed reports of the disease in our region, presumably due to clean seed pieces and/or hot dry conditions after the threshold was crossed. See Pest Summary. Potato Early Blight Models are above the threshold level of 300 at most locations across northeastern Colorado. See Pest Summary. Maintain the protectant fungicide program on a weekly basis with products which include EBDCs (maneb, mancozeb, Penncozeb, Dithane, Polyram), Bravo/Equus, SuperTin, Quadris with an adjuvant if recommended on the fungicide label.

Last week's monsoon-type weather brought 0.4 to more than 2 inches of rain with temperatures in the mid 80s throughout eastern Colorado. These conditions may bring on a flush of foliar problems and contribute to more severe early blight development in upcoming days. Scout fields and continue an aggressive program with your protectant fungicides. Some of the early fields are nearing harvest. Remember to achieve good vine kill, and allow the vines to dry for a couple of weeks prior to harvest to reduce tuber contamination by spores (especially of Late Blight if it should occur in your field). See Pest Summary at <http://www.csuag.com>

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

### **ONION UPDATE**

July 16, 2001 UPDATE: There are still NO reports of Downy Mildew on transplanted or seeded onions, but a fungicide program may be beneficial if the threat and cooler and/or moister weather conditions occur during mid to late July. Purple Blotch forecast models are well above the threshold level of 300 in the northeastern part of Colorado for fields with an emergence date of April 1, so scout aggressively for early signs of disease. The west slope and Arkansas Valley regions are now above the threshold with last weeks cool and moist conditions. Aggressively scout fields in these areas and initiate protectant programs. Effective fungicides include Bravo, EBDC (maneb, mancozeb, ManKocide, penncozeb, Dithane), and Ridomil package mixes (with EBDC, copper, Bravo/Equus). Bravo/Equus, ManKocide and EBDCs are protectants that may have to be applied every 7 - 10 days, while the Ridomil provides protection against Downy Mildew for 14 days or longer in the threat persists. The EBDC and Bravo/Equus products and Rovral are effective against Purple Blotch. Add an adjuvant if recommended on the fungicide label to improve plant coverage. If there is a history of bacterial soft rot or other bacterial diseases in your fields or area, you may want to include a copper-based bactericide (Champ, NuCop, Kocide, ManKocide, etc) plus EBDC and adjuvant as older transplants begin to bulk up. Bacterial soft rot and Xanthomonas Leaf Blight have been detected in the Arkansas Valley, and may threaten transplant onions and seeded onions after bulbing. Bacterial soft rot and slippery skin have been observed in the Front Range area, especially on fields with some storm damage. As onions bulb and begin to bulk up, the bacterial disease complex will become more prevalent. Some of the early transplant fields are nearing harvest. Remember to cure the onions before and/or after topping to reduce disease spread, especially of Bacterial Soft Rot, Black Mold and Botrytis. Use air curing in the storage shed to further dry out the exposed neck and outer, soft scales.

### **DRY BEAN UPDATE**

July 16, 2001 UPDATE: The May and June weather data from COAGMET illustrate that 2001 was cooler and wetter than experienced in northern and southern Colorado production regions during the 2000 season. The west slope averages are similar to 2000 - warm and dry. Bean rust was confirmed on volunteer beans northeast of Haxtun, CO in early June. A survey to northwestern Nebraska detected volunteer beans, but no signs of overwintered rust in fields that were infected in 2000. When rust is confirmed in new crop fields this year, fungicide options include Maneb/Manex (30 day preharvest interval), Bravo (14 day interval), and Tilt (28 day interval); Tilt will have a Section 18 label for 2001 in Colorado until August 31.

Use sanitation (cultivation, plowing) and selective herbicides to remove overwintered sources of beans and pests before they can be moved into new crop fields located downwind or downstream from these infested sites. Aggressively scout new crop fields for evidence of early development by these pests before implementation of pesticide programs. Monitor COAGMET weather patterns and pest forecast models, and share pest sightings with VEGNET personnel.

Last week's monsoon-type weather with cool and moist conditions throughout eastern Colorado may bring on a flush of bacterial disease within the upcoming days. Aggressively scout fields and continue the protectant program with copper bactericides.

Bacterial disease management with copper-based bactericides such as Champ, Kocide, NuCop should be initiated as a preventive program at 30, 40 and 50 days post-planting. Add an adjuvant if recommended on the bactericide label. Initiate or continue copper sprays on hail-damaged fields of beans; wait a few days if more than 50% of the canopy was stripped by storm damage to allow new growth to emerge and benefit from the protection. Do not use sulfur-based products as curatives for wounds, sulfur will just burn tissue and act as a defoliant at high rates; wounded tissue will dry out naturally and not be a further disease threat to surviving tissue.

Fields with a history of white mold should be managed by the timely application of appropriate fungicides such as Topsin at 100 % flowering (every plant with 1 or more open blossoms) to full bloom. The objective is to get the fungicide on to flowers to protect them from being colonized by fungal ascospores on the soil surface and within the plant canopy. Fungicide coverage and penetration into the canopy are critical; 25 – 30 gal/A with a ground rig, 10 gal/A by air, and less than ¼ inch/A during chemigation. Irrigation management with extended intervals between applications can keep the soil surface and plant canopy dry without stressing pod set and seed fill and reduce losses from white mold. (Schwartz)

### **ORGANIC FARMING IN THE U.S.**

The Organic Farming Research Foundation (OFRF) has announced the results of its annual count of the nation's certified organic farmers. As of January 1, 2001 there were 7,800 certified organic farmers in the U.S. This figure represents an 18% increase in the number of certified organic growers over the 1999 total of 6,600. OFRF maintains the National Organic Certifiers Directory as part of its efforts to maintain direct contact with organic farmers for the purposes of research and education. The National Organic Certifiers Directory is available on the OFRF website at: <http://www.ofrf.org/publications/certifier.html>. To receive a copy of the directory by mail, please contact OFRF at P.O. Box 440, Santa Cruz, CA, 95061, (831) 426-6606: [research@ofrf.org](mailto:research@ofrf.org).

### **STRONGER CONSUMER INFORMATION PROGRAM ANNOUNCED FOR CCA-TREATED WOOD**

EPA has completed its review of a plan developed by the American Wood Preservers Institute (AWPI) to strengthen information available to consumers for chromated copper arsenicals (CCA) treated wood, which is widely used for many outdoor applications including decks, fences, posts, picnic tables, docks, and playground equipment. The expanded consumer information program begins immediately, and by early fall will include labeling on all pieces of CCA-treated lumber, in-store displays and additional information available to the public.

CCA, a chemical containing arsenic, is used to pressure-treat wood to protect it against decay and insect damage. EPA learned that the previous consumer awareness program was not adequately informing the public, and in May the EPA asked the wood preservative industry and the public to propose ways to expeditiously enhance the existing consumer awareness program to ensure adequate information reaches consumers. EPA's comments on the AWPI proposal are available at:

[http://www.epa.gov/oppfead1/cb/csb\\_page/updates/ccaletter.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/oppfead1/cb/csb_page/updates/ccaletter.pdf).

(McDonald)

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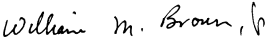
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Where trade names are used, no discrimination is intended, and no endorsement by the Cooperative Extension Service is implied.

Sincerely,

  
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