

## **Montana Potato Late Blight Weather Data Report**

July 26, 2010

Late Blight risk is still very low in the Gallatin and Beaverhead Valleys. The Flathead, in particular the Polson area, is beginning to accumulate Late Blight severity values that indicate disease *could* develop *if* inoculum were present. While Late Blight was detected early in the Columbia Basin, North Dakota and Canada, the hot dry weather conditions have reduced the risk of serious epidemics in those areas.

<b><u>Site</u></b>	<b><u>Accrued Severity Values<sup>1</sup></u></b>	<b><u>P – Days<sup>2</sup></u></b>	<b><u>Fungicide Spray Recommendation</u></b>
<b>Churchill West</b> (Schutter Seed Farm)	4	160	<i>Sclerotinia White Mold</i>
<b>Churchill South</b> (Kimm Seed)	3	263	“ “
<b>Churchill North</b> (Kimm Brothers)	1	148	“ “
<b>Townsend</b> (Skinner Spuds)	11	272	“ “
<b>Dillon</b> (Cottom Seed, Inc.)	2	251	“ “
<b>Deer Lodge</b> (Leo Nicholes)	No Data		
<b>Ronan</b> (Lake Farms)	15	258	“ “
<b>Polson</b> (Lake Seed, Inc.)	24	264	“ “
<b>Kalispell*</b> (Streich & Associates, Inc.)	3	162	“ “
<b>Fort Benton*</b> (Maughan Farms, Inc.)	1	161	“ “

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<sup>1</sup> A threshold of 18 severity values is used for prediction of late blight disease development. Late blight is anticipated 7 to 14 days after 18 severity values have accrued from emergence when inoculum is present.

<sup>2</sup> A threshold of 300 P-Days is used to schedule preventative sprays for Early Blight

\* Weather stations at Kalispell and Fort Benton were installed after plant emergence and may underestimate the accrued severity units and accumulated P-Days. The Deer Lodge station is not currently reporting any data.

We have completed inspections in the Gallatin Valley, Beaverhead Valley, and most of the Toston area. We will finish up in the Flathead, Deer Lodge and Fort Benton by August 2. Most potatoes are in bloom and within the window for fungicide applications for Sclerotinia white mold control. At this point, no areas of the state have accumulated enough P-Days to warrant fungicide applications for early blight control. For more specific information, refer to the recommendations distributed earlier by Dr. Barry Jacobsen.

It should be assumed that aphid protection from seed treatment or in-furrow application of systemic insecticides has worn off. A spray schedule alternating different insecticide classes should be initiated. For PVY management in seed plots, if you have been observing a significant number of mosaic plants in fields near your seed plot, you may want to consider using a crop-oil product to reduce transmission by aphids, in addition to conventional insecticides. For specific information on insecticide classes, refer to the recommendations distributed in mid-July by Barry Jacobsen. The University of Idaho has an excellent bulletin on PVY control including insecticide recommendations. The link to the Idaho publication is <http://www.cals.uidaho.edu/edcomm/pdf/CIS/CIS1165.pdf>.