Cooperative Extension: Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado 80523

Pest Alert

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The Pest Alert is now found on the World Wide Web at http://www.colostate.edu/programs/pestalert

SEPTEMBER 4 VEGNET REPORT

Note: The last issue of Pest Alert you received shouldhave been vol. 17 no. 19, with the date August 28, 2000. The first article of this issue is the August 28, 2000 Vegnet report. Sorry for any inconvenience or confusion

SEPTEMBER 4 VEGNET REPORT

During the last few days of August and first few days of September - 2000, rainfall totals (inches) varied from 0 to less than ½ inch throughout Colorado, western Nebraska, western Kansas and eastern Wyoming. Temperature averages were lower in the mid 80s at most locations, except at Dove Creek at 76 and Tribune at 94 F. The regional weather forecast predicts average rainfall and above average temperatures for the second week of September; the west slope will have average temperatures.

Bean rust reports came in from many locations in eastern Colorado and western Nebraska last week. However, very few disease reports from other crops and areas have filtered in to VegNet.

Please share sightings of pest problems by calling the CSU VegNet Team at 970-491-6987 (Howard Schwartz), 491-7846 (Mark McMillan), or 491-0256 (Kris Otto).

POTATO
Continue to scout later planted fields for early blight and late blight. Disease pressure from early blight has increased recently on heat stressed plants exposed to cooler and moister conditions in recent weeks.

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

Colorado State University

For late fields, maintain the Early Blight Protection Program throughout the Front Range and northeastern areas of Colorado with protectant fungicides such as the EBDCs (e.g., maneb, mancozeb, penncozeb, dithane, polyram), Quadris, and super tin.

Disease Model: with a May 15 emergence (regrowth) date, the early blight model is averaging 730 - 780 throughout eastern Colorado as of September 3.

The late blight model (threshold of 18, with disease possible in 7 to 14 days) has increased a few points again during the last week, and is averaging 13 to 27 in the Front Range, 36 at Fort Morgan (Note: large increase since last week), and 20 to 36 at northeastern sites (Wray, Yuma), with a May 15 emergence date. There are still no reports of Late Blight in the state as of September 3.

In the San Luis Valley (May 15 emergence date), the early blight model is at 670; and the late blight model is holding steady at still less than 3.

DRY BEAN

During the last week, rust has been confirmed on numerous fields of pinto Bill Z and Othello and great northern Beryl throughout eastern Colorado, southwestern Nebraska and northwestern Nebraska. These late infections should not damage the crop if it will be harvested within a couple of weeks, however, the diseased foliage sets the stage for potential epidemics on susceptible varieties planted in the region during 2001. Therefore, adjust combines to reduce loss of bean seed during threshing, and incorporate this year's bean debris to reduce overwintering sites of the fungus.

If rust is detected in susceptible varieties, protectant fungicides such as Bravo at a 14 day phi could still provide protection against secondary infection if the plants have 3 weeks or longer until knifing. [Note: There is no Section 18 label for Tilt available for bean producers to use in Colorado or Nebraska during 2000.]

A late-season copper-based bactericide program (with products such as Kocide, Champ, NuCop, etc) can be continued to protect young pods (pre-bump) if disease threatens. If harvest will occur within 2 weeks, there will be no benefit from additional or rescue treatments of copper-based bactericides.

White mold can only be managed late in the season by careful management of irrigation water to dry out plant canopies and soil surfaces between waterings.

ONION

Most seeded fields are near harvest. Those that still have 1 to 2 weeks until cropping and harvest may benefit from a continued protectant bactericide/fungicide application (copper + EBDC product such as maneb, mancozeb, dithane, penncozeb) for the bacterial disease complex. There are still no reports of serious bacterial (or foliar fungal) problems in the state. Botrytis blast may appear at this stage of the season as small, whitish, sunken lesions usually beginning near leaf tips and progressing downwards.

Maintain the copper-based bactericide program, tank-mixed with an EBDC product on a 7 to 10 day interval to reduce problems with bacterial diseases and any fungal diseases (Purple

Blotch, Downy Mildew, Botrytis Blast) that could develop as the plants continue to develop and mature in the next few weeks. Rovral could be added for enhanced protection against Purple Botch and/or Botrytis if detected. Ridomil/Copper can be added for enhanced protection against Downy Mildew if detected.

If one uses an April 1 emergence date for seeded onions, the Purple Blotch disease model (threshold value of 300) is averaging 550 to 680 in the Front Range and Fort Morgan areas, 510 to 560 in the Arkansas Valley and West Slope areas. Therefore, our onion areas have exceeded the threshold with minimal outbreaks from Purple Blotch; apparently due to inhibition of the fungus by the high temperatures requiring additional modification of the disease forecast model for future years. With the cooler and more moist conditions during the last 2 weeks, we may see a late-season flush of infection with minimal impact upon yield.

Harvest and curing practices should emphasize well-cured, dried tops and bulbs in the field and in storage. This will reduce contamination of exposed neck surfaces, and moisture which is needed by fungal and bacterial pathogens for colonization and infection of onion necks, shoulders and basal plates. Continue curing in the shed with ambient temperature and lots of air movement.

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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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