

The University of Maryland Extension Agriculture and Natural Resources Profitability Impact Team proudly presents this special alert for the commercial vegetable and fruit industry.

Special Alert: Late Blight Advisory

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Maryland Potato Late Blight Advisory

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Late blight forecasts are being generated for eight locations across the state based on the programs Blightcast and Simcast. A preventative late blight fungicide application such as mancozeb or chlorothalonil is recommended once 18 Disease Severity Values (DSVs) accumulate from 50% crop emergence. A 50% emergence date of May 1 was estimated for Dorchester Co., Clinton, Owings, Severn, Mechanicsville, and White Marsh. A 50% emergence date of May 5 was estimated for Germantown, and May 10 for Oakland. **All locations have reached the threshold for the initial fungicide spray.** If no protectant has been applied, one should be applied now. Once the first fungicide is applied, subsequent late blight sprays are based on the Simcast program. This program requires information on specific fungicide applications in a field. Therefore, I am reporting the Simcast spray interval as a guideline only. It is based on the assumption that a susceptible cultivar is being grown and that a protectant such as chlorothalonil is being applied whenever DSV's indicate that another application is warranted.

Currently there are no confirmed reports of late blight on either tomato or potato outside of Florida. However, there is one **unconfirmed** report of a tomato greenhouse outbreak in Berkeley Springs, West Virginia. The potato crop should continue to be protected with a preventative application of mancozeb or chlorothalonil. In addition, tomatoes in the proximity of the potential outbreak area should also be protected. Growers in the area near Berkeley Springs should increase the scouting frequency of fields.

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Late Blight Disease Severity Value (DSV) Report

Location	DSV	Simcast spray interval recommendation*
Dorchester County	29	7-day
Germantown	37	5-day
Clinton	37	5-day
Owings	31	10-day
Severn	37	5-day
White Marsh	20	8-day
Mechanicsville	31	10-day
Oakland	14	10-day

*Spray interval recommendation is based on production of a susceptible cultivar and application of a protectant fungicide such as chlorothalonil.

Growers opting not to use the forecast system should put the first late blight fungicide application on when the plants are 6 inches tall, and repeat every 7 days. There are numerous fungicides now labeled for late blight control. See the 2013 Commercial Vegetable Production Recommendations, Maryland:
<http://extension.umd.edu/mdvegetables/2013-commercial-vegetable-production-recommendations> .

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