Sugarbeet Growers Rapidly Adopt Recommendations to Control Rhizoctonia

The Situation
Sugarbeet growers have identified controlling early season damping-off and later season root rot caused by the fungus *Rhizoctonia solani* as a major problem.

Extension Response
Greenhouse and field research was conducted to evaluate fungicides which would be safe to use and provide early season damping-off and later season root rot. Chemical companies were contacted to obtain experimental compounds and seed companies were engaged in developing seed treatments which incorporated different fungicide treatments. Research plot demonstrations were conducted which illustrated which treatments provided acceptable early and late season protection from Rhizoctonia and were safe when used with other common production practices.

Impacts
Penthiopyrad was registered as a seed treatment (Kabina) and became available in 2013. Vibrance, became available in 2016. All seed companies are now using an effective fungicide seed treatment and encourage the use of a timely post-application fungicide such as Quadris to control Rhizoctonia. 97% of survey respondents indicated they were satisfied or very satisfied with the performance of seed treatments. 64% of survey respondents indicated excellent or good control and 30% indicated fair control of Rhizoctonia with foliar fungicides.

Feedback
Managers of the sugar cooperatives indicated that growers were satisfied with the practicality and the economics of the available seed treatments. Mr. Mark Nyquist, sugarbeet grower from the Moorhead Factory District indicated that he uses Kabina seed treatment ‘because it improves his efficiency, it is convenient, and provides an economic return’.

Public Value Statement
Controlling pests and diseases of major agriculture crops through the use of producer education programs and holistic cropping systems including the judicious use of pesticides protects our environment, preserves jobs for our rural population, and provides a food supply that is safe, affordable, abundant and reliable.

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Picture below – Middle-four rows infected with Rhizoctonia

Picture below – Rhizoctonia effectively controlled with seed treatment and timely application of fungicide.

Resource Links: