

June 2, 2014

Welcome to the NDSU Potato Blightline for June 2 sponsored by Syngenta Crop Protection. We are up and running for the 20<sup>th</sup> consecutive year of operation. The Blightline includes disease forecasting and control recommendations for late blight and early blight, and other potato disease and insect information on a local and national basis. The Blightline is updated every Monday, Wednesday and Friday until mid-September. Information and recommendations are available anytime through the toll free number 1.888.482.7286 and the NDSU Potato Late Blightline at [www.ndawn.ndsu.nodak.edu](http://www.ndawn.ndsu.nodak.edu) for the website, click on applications, select potato, and choose late blight. There is also a link there to the NDSU Plant Pathology Late Blight website at this site. The NDAWN website for potato disease forecasting uses colored maps of ND to quickly illustrate the late blight severity values (both two day and seasonal), favorable day values and P-day values for early blight throughout ND.

**Current recommendations:**

As you all know, potato planting and emergence are way behind normal due to the extended winter and delayed arrival of spring and summer. As a result, much of the potato acreage is only recently or not yet planted and emergence will be late. Warm temperatures will stimulate emergence, but the recent wet weather recently will favor both bacterial seed decay and Rhizoctonia stem canker of the emerging sprouts. It is not too early to remind the potato community to prepare for late blight, and even though we did not have late blight in our area last year, other potato producing areas in the US did. The risk of late blight now is low, but continuing wet weather during the season will provide conditions favorable for late blight.

Preventing first sources of late blight is a critical part of late blight management. These sources of initial inoculum are culls, volunteers and seed. Infected seed can be an early source of late blight inoculum, so it is important to scout fields for late blight early and all season.

Thank you for using the NDSU Blightline.