



PENNSYLVANIA VEGETABLE MARKETING & RESEARCH PROGRAM

2301 N. Cameron St., Harrisburg, PA 17110 | 717-694-3596 | pvmrp@embarqmail.com | PAVeggies.org

Pennsylvania Vegetable IPM Special Update

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These are cooperative projects involving Penn State University researchers, Penn State Cooperative Extension educators, growers, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, the Pennsylvania Vegetable Marketing and Research Program and the Pennsylvania Vegetable Growers Association.

Late Blight Confirmed in Southwestern New York

Beth Gugino, Extension Vegetable Pathologist, Penn State University

Yesterday late blight was confirmed on a commercial farm in Chautauqua County NY on both tomatoes and potatoes. This is the first confirmed report in the region this year. The next closest reports are on potato in central Wisconsin and on tomato in Tennessee and North Carolina.

Late blight is characterized by lesions that are irregularly shaped and initially water-soaked and pale-green before turning gray-brown in color. Under humid conditions, the lesions on the underside of the leaves will sporulate giving them a white fuzzy appearance. The lesions will tend to develop on the upper to middle part of the plant canopy as opposed to early blight or Septoria leaf spot (tomato only) that start on the lower leaves and move upwards often defoliating the plant if left unmanaged. Early blight lesions have more well-defined margins and are more circular in shape with tight concentric rings and may be surrounded by yellowing leaf tissue.

Fungicide programs that include protectants like mancozeb or chlorothalonil will also help protect against late blight. Many of the products that are recommended for downy mildew on cucurbit crops are also recommended for late blight on tomato and potato including Orondis Opti, Ranman, Previcur Flex, etc. A more complete list of recommended fungicides can be found in the [2020-21 Mid-Atlantic Commercial Vegetable Production Recommendations](#). If you are done with harvest and in a county close to the confirmed report, consider disking under the crop or burning it down with an herbicide so the field does not unknowingly become a source of inoculum since you are no longer actively scouting. If you suspect late blight on your farm please let me know either by email at bkgugino@psu.edu, by phone at 814-865-7328 or contact your local Extension Office.



Foliar lesions characteristic of late blight (top) and early blight (bottom) (Photo: Beth K. Gugino).

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