

Treating Potatoes

To reduce incidence of disease, keep pathogens away from seed pieces.

By Tom Zitter

KEEPING pathogens away from your potatoes starts with the seed pieces. Potato seed pieces can introduce plant pathogens to germinating seed or introduce inoculum into fields that were not previously infested.

Diseases introduced on seed include

common scab (*Streptomyces scabies*), Rhizoctonia black scurf and stem canker (*Rhizoctonia solani*), silver scurf (*Helminthosporium solani*), Black dot (*Colletotrichum coccodes*), Fusarium dry rot, bacterial black leg, and late blight (*Phytophthora infestans*). Soilborne inoculum remains a source for potato diseases (common scab, powdery scab,

In-Furrow And Surface Incorporated Fungicides

In-Furrow treatments	Active ingredient(s)	Fusarium dry rot	Rhizoctonia	Silver scurf	Black dot	Leak	Pink rot
Amistar	azoxystrobin	-	+++	++	+	-	-
Blocker or Terraclor	quintozene	-	++	-	-	-	-
Moncut	fludioxonil	-	+++	-	-	-	-
Phostrol	phosphorous acid	-	-	-	-	+	+
Ridomil Gold ^a or Ultra Flourish ^a	mefenoxam	-	-	-	-	+	+

^a A foliar application of Ridomil Gold/Bravo or Flourenil at tuber initiation may be necessary. Effectiveness of ratings where - equals ineffective and +++ equals very effective

Source: Tom Zitter

Keep Blight At Bay

DON'T let late blight take over your fields. These seven steps will help you control blight this season and beyond.

1. Destroy cull piles, and prevent re-growth throughout the season (use paraquat and glyphosate).
2. Select disease-free seed for crop establishment and consider a seed piece treatment. A certification tag provides limited information, whereas a North American Certified Seed Potato Health Certificate gives much more detailed information.
3. Control volunteers which can contribute to early epidemics; watch your neighbors as well.
4. Make a timely start to a spray program, and use disease severity values (DSV) as a guide.
5. Adjust spray intervals during the season depending on blight presence and weather conditions.
6. Don't chase an epidemic with fungicides — burning out infected areas can save a lot of fungicide expense.
7. Use mixed formulations of active ingredients and follow labeled rates.

Rhizoctonia, and Fusarium). So, site selection and ample rotation out of potatoes with the use of corn and cereals in addition to crucifers (mustards) is necessary.

Seed Piece, In-Furrow Treatments

To help combat these problems, growers can opt for seed piece or in-furrow treatments (Maxim MZ, fludioxonil and mancozeb, Syngenta; Moncoat MZ, flutolanil and mancozeb, United Agri Products; T-22, *Trichoderma*, BioWorks; and Tops MZ, thiophanate-methyl and mancozeb; Gustafson). There is not one perfect seed piece or in-furrow treatment, so selection of the proper material(s) is dictated by the problems on a given field, or what may be potentially carried on seed (i.e. late blight).

In-furrow treatments allow growers to apply fungicides at the time of planting and are more convenient for the applicator. Materials are applied as a banded spray in sufficient water to cover the seed piece, while lying in the furrow, and some of the surrounding soil before closing the furrow with soil. **AVG**

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