

**'Understanding and Controlling Late Blight of Tomato and Potato in the Home Garden'
Webinar
July 13, 2010**

Chat Room Questions and Answers

Hosted by Rutgers, Penn State and Cornell University

Moderators:

New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, Rutgers University

Steve Komar, County Agricultural Agent, Sussex County, New Jersey
Bill Bamka, County Agricultural Agent, Burlington County, New Jersey
Wesley Kline, County Agricultural Agent, Cumberland County, New Jersey
Andy Wyenandt, Extension Specialist in Vegetable Pathology, Rutgers University

New York Agricultural Experiment Station, Cornell University

Margaret T. McGrath, Vegetable Pathologist, LIHRC, Cornell University, Long Island, New York

Penn State University

Beth K. Gugino, Assistant Professor, Plant Pathology, Penn State University

karlski: Will the webinar be available online after tonight?

Moderator (Andy Wyenandt (Rutgers)): Yes it will be available at www.njveg.rutgers.edu

Moderator (Beth Gugino (Penn State)): Penn State <http://extension.psu.edu/late-blight>
(coming soon)

Mary: powdery & downy mildew doesn't survive season to season - which zones?

wesley: Mary - They blowup from the South where it does not freeze

Joseph Becker to Meg McGrath, Beth Gugino (Penn State), Andy Wyenandt (Rutgers):
Would it be helpful to spread a fungicide in the fall after growing season to get rid of
pathogens that can stand the weather? Joe Becker

Moderator (Andy Wyenandt (Rutgers)): Joe - no, the best thing to do is to work all
organic matter back into the soil so it can breakdown or remove all debris and compost
it!

Mary: The south can get a freeze (I lived in Memphis) so I guess if there's a freeze it's
killed, or does the soil have to go under a certain temp?

Moderator (Andy Wyenandt (Rutgers)): Mary - yes, a hard freeze will kill obligate
pathogens such as the downy and powdery mildews out.

wesley: When we are talking about South it is Florida and the gulf coast

bobecker: Can a seed be infected with Late blight?

Moderator (wesley): potato seed can be infected, but not tomato seed.

somersetrobi to Meg McGrath, Beth Gugino (Penn State), wesley, Andy Wyenandt
(Rutgers): Any Late blight reported in NJ?

Moderator (Andy Wyenandt (Rutgers)): None to date

Kate Mary: Is it likely that late blight is occurring more frequently than we know and just
isn't being reported?

Moderator (Meg McGrath): If occurring frequently, those of us working with growers
would be getting reports from growers,

Moderator (Andy Wyenandt (Rutgers)): Kate Mary - not likely since it is so destructive.

Kate Mary: That makes sense. Wouldn't serve to not report it. Thank you!

DEBI WALSH 1: WON'T THE HEAT OF A COMPOST PILE KILL IT

Moderator (wesley): yes, it should, but more often than not, the problem is many times compost piles are not managed properly

Kathy Bavaro: if i had it (late blight) last year (not diagnosed) and the conditions are now better in central nj after all this rain. How soon before i can see symptoms?

Moderator (wesley): If there is late blight in the area it could be 7-10 days

Moderator (Meg McGrath): the issue with the tomato volunteers is that they aren't being taken care of - so any late blight that develops won't be noticed or managed.

michu: But if I let the tomato volunteers grow in my raised beds, and there was no previous sign of late blight, I should not automatically expect it because it is a volunteer?

Moderator (Andy Wyenandt (Rutgers)): michu, yes that is true

michu: thank you

Moderator (Meg McGrath): If you grow volunteers like a crop, then I don't consider them a crop

Moderator (Meg McGrath): that should be I consider them a crop (not a volunteer)!

Moderator (Meg McGrath): Late Blight spreadsheet plus the forecast site are linked at my web page:

Moderator (Meg McGrath): <http://www.hort.cornell.edu/lateblight>

skip: can the tomatos be treated pre-emptively? just for protection

Moderator (wesley): Beth will be discussing control in a moment

Moderator (Andy Wyenandt (Rutgers)): skip, yes, you can apply protectant fungicides

Kathy Bavaro: does this also affect peppers?

Moderator (wesley): No

Moderator (Andy Wyenandt (Rutgers)): kathy, no

Mary: So, when is the best time to start applying preventive sprays? Once a plant is established? Also, one has to wear such protective gear but you can harvest produce the same day?

Moderator (Andy Wyenandt (Rutgers)): Mary, the best time to apply is to start before it shows up in your region, thus using the forecasting reports can help you time when you should start to apply fungicides.

Moderator (wesley): Debi - the protectant fungicides will not affect roots.

mikey: does it affect tomatillos?

Moderator (Andy Wyenandt (Rutgers)) yes!

Moderator (wesley): Jacky - If the weather conditions are right for late blight then you should be spraying

karlski: Do the fungicides come in different concentrations?

Moderator (Andy Wyenandt (Rutgers)) Yes they do! You should check the products label for the % active ingredient.

michu: if I see early signs of blight, should I pull that plant?

Moderator (Andy Wyenandt (Rutgers)) That is one option, you could also just remove the infected leaves.

skip: when is the period for early blight?

Moderator (wesley): Skip - There is some early blight in Southern New Jersey right now

michu: could a plant get BOTH early and liate blights?

Moderator (Beth Gugino (Penn State)): Michu- Yes

michu: so a tomato plant could get BOTH early and late blights?

Moderator (wesley): Michu- yes a plant can get both

Moderator (Andy Wyenandt (Rutgers)): yes!

Moderator (Meg McGrath): absolutely, as well as Septoria leaf spot, etc. etc

karlski: This was incredibly useful - we need to publicize these webinars more through e.g. community garden group sites and master gardener web sites. (I'll do my part now that I know that these webinars occur!)

skip: thanks guys....

jen: Thanks..It was great!

Dianne: Thanks ... very informative

Kathy Bavaro: thanks! great job guys!

sparky: thank you all so much. Wonderful.

DEBI WALSH 1: MOST INFORMITVE

MargotS: Thanks

somersetrobi to Meg McGrath, Beth Gugino (Penn State), wesley, Andy Wyenandt (Rutgers): Great job looking forward to the next webinar

Joseph Becker to Meg McGrath, Beth Gugino (Penn State), wesley, Andy Wyenandt (Rutgers): Thank you, It was most informative. Joe Becker

jerry: good job! Jerry

Mary: Looking forward to receiving the presentation & comments. Most appreciative.

skip: thanks

Kate Mary: I learned so much. Thank you for being clear and thorough.

Sage: Thank you

onieda County: Thanks

micchu: this was awesome. thank you!

Oneida Co Ny: Missed the very begining of your talk did you discuss the rumors going around that you need to treat the Soil? (I understand that it IS NOT a soil Borne disease but many people think it is. Could you also discuss the importance of crop rotation!

Kathy Bavaro: thanks again!

DSB: Thank you, very informative

richfennelly: terrific presentaion. Info should help me on MG helpline.

wolf6pack: Thank you

karlski: You answered all my questions during the presentation!

skip: thank you

Mary: best

Danny Robertson: Thank you, Danny Robertson

Sallythe Gardener: thank you

jaxon: Thank you all!

Sandy Vanno: Thank you - very informative; looking forward to future webinars

Kathy Bavaro: good night

Veronica Dengler: I would love to join you again! Pls have another one!

Moderator (Andy Wyenandt (Rutgers)): thank you all for joining us tonight!

Moderator (Andy Wyenandt (Rutgers)): good night!