

Montana Potato Weather Data and Disease Report

August 8,, 2016

The Churchill North and Toston weather stations have accumulated a large number of severity units for Late Blight. Recent shower activity has contributed to the increase in risk as well as high humidity levels in dense canopies. If inoculum were present, infection would be possible. To date, I have not heard any reports of Late Blight in surrounding states. Our entire region is benefiting from the dryer conditions and no sustained rainy periods. All areas have reached the threshold for early blight for early varieties and most stations have reached the threshold for midseason varieties. The Townsend station has reached the threshold for early through late varieties. Where late blight risk is high, a 7-day preventative fungicide spray interval is recommended. Where late blight risk is still low, preventative fungicides such as chlorothalonil, mancozeb or dithane on a 7-10 day schedule should be adequate and will give protection against both early blight and late blight.

<u>Site</u>	<u>Accrued Severity Values¹</u>				<u>P – Days²</u>	<u>Fungicide Recommendation</u>
	7/17	7/24	7/29	8/8		
<i>Churchill West – MSPUD1</i>	7	9	10	16	370	<i>Early Blight (mid-season var.)</i>
<i>Churchill North – MSPUD2</i>	10	15	19	36	378	<i>Late Blight, Early Blight</i>
<i>Churchill South – MSPUD3</i>	3	3	3	6	365	<i>Early Blight (mid-season var.)</i>
<i>Toston – MSPUD4</i>	9	13	17	28	361	<i>Late Blight, Early Blight</i>
<i>Dillon – MSPUD5</i>	2	2	2	12	302	<i>Early Blight (early var.)</i>
<i>Twin Bridges – MSPUD6</i>	2	2	3	12	307	<i>Early Blight (early var.)</i>
<i>Ronan – MSPUD7</i>	4	7	9	13	363	<i>Early Blight (mid-season var.)</i>
<i>Polson – MSPUD8</i>	1	4	4	5	336	<i>Early Blight (mid-season var.)</i>
<i>Kalispell – MSPUD9</i>	4	5	5	6	350	<i>Early Blight (mid-season var.)</i>
<i>Townsend – MSPUD10</i>	6	8	9	13	399	<i>Early Blight (All Varieties)</i>

¹ A threshold of 18 severity values is used for prediction of late blight disease development. Late blight is anticipated 7 to 14 days after 18 severity values have accrued from emergence when inoculum is present.

² A threshold of 300 P-Days is used to schedule preventative sprays for Early Blight for early varieties, 350 P-Days for medium season varieties, and 400 P-Days for late season varieties. P-days are calculated from emergence.