

Late Blight Confirmed on Tomato and Potato in Garden in Setauket

Detection of late blight in a garden confirms that the pathogen is present on LI, conditions have been favorable for late blight, and that gardeners are learning about late blight. The gardeners of this community garden first noticed symptoms on 6/16, contacted the diagnostic clinic on 6/18, and began removing plants on 6/19 after the diagnosis was confirmed. Quick action reflects their understanding of the destructive potential of this disease following the 2009 epidemic. The source of the pathogen most likely was the potatoes in the garden or another garden. Overwintering inoculum is not an option since this is a new garden, and the tomatoes should have developed symptoms before now if infected when they were planted (May 1). A major concern is that late blight is developing in other gardens and possibly farms. All tomato and potato crops should be thoroughly scouted. Report any suspected symptoms to Meg McGrath. Applying at least a protectant fungicide like chlorothalonil is warranted because there could be additional affected plants anywhere on LI. Mobile fungicides for late blight are: Previcur Flex (FRAC Group 28), Ranman (Group 21), Revus Top, Revus, and Forum (Group 40), Curzate and Tanos (Group 27), Gavel (Group 22), Presidio (Group 43; tomatoes only), and Omega (Group 29; potatoes only). These fungicides need to be used in alternation to manage resistance. -- Margaret Tuttle McGrath, Department of Plant Pathology and Plant-Microbe Biology, Cornell University, Long Island Horticultural Research & Extension Center, 3059 Sound Avenue, Riverhead, NY 11901-1098; Phone: 631-727-3595.

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