

Agricultural Beet

June 19, 2019
Cercospora Leafspot
Control BMP Series

Southern Minnesota Beet Sugar
Cooperative
Renville, MN
www.smbc.com | 320.329.8305

AGBEET series on Cercospora Leafspot BMP's for 2019

You may have noticed a reference to the “social” aspect of Cercospora Leafspot (CLS) in the first installment of the 2019 AgBEET series on CLS. Do not dismiss this as whimsical jargon. In fact, recognition of the social characteristics and ramifications of pesticide resistance is actually a significant feature of a new strategy being employed by the Weed Science Society of America as a tool in their fight against weeds and weed resistance.

By definition, denoting CLS infections or CLS fungicide resistance as a social problem implies a “human” side of this challenge. And, in many ways this is a rather accurate portrayal when you consider that ...

1. ... we **ALL** need to come to the realization that this issue is not only significant but also in many ways incurable (at least regarding total eradication of the disease in sugarbeet) in order to effectively modify our behavior(s) to successfully coexist with the disease. **Use of the word “our” should not be misinterpreted to mean shareholders only but also academia and cooperative employees as well.
2. ... the problem is in-and-of-itself **communal** by nature (at least to a degree). This means that even if an operation employs a stellar strategy to control the disease, there is no guarantee that this operation will remain free from CLS if epidemic levels of the disease are allowed to (or have) existed nearby.
3. ... an effective resolution will require sizable sharing of **communication** relating to specific practices that have proven to increase control of this pathogen among all facets of sugarbeet production.

These premises were at the core of the creation of a Shareholder Innovation Committee whose primary functions include collaborative sharing of ideas and practices from actual shareholder field applications to complement the ongoing trials and objectives of the SMBSC research staff in addition to stimulating new or novel ideas and/or potential areas of study that possess the potential to successfully manage this disease and other agricultural threats to your cooperative.

Considering the loss and/or limited utility of certain fungicide modes of action that possess CLS activity, future success in controlling this disease will become increasingly dependent upon the questions that we are asking ourselves today and the resulting choices that we make from here forward. Next week we will continue this series by restating the SMBSC CLS management plans, tools, and recommendations as well as delving deeper into questions and solutions being developed by the Shareholder Innovation Committee.

