

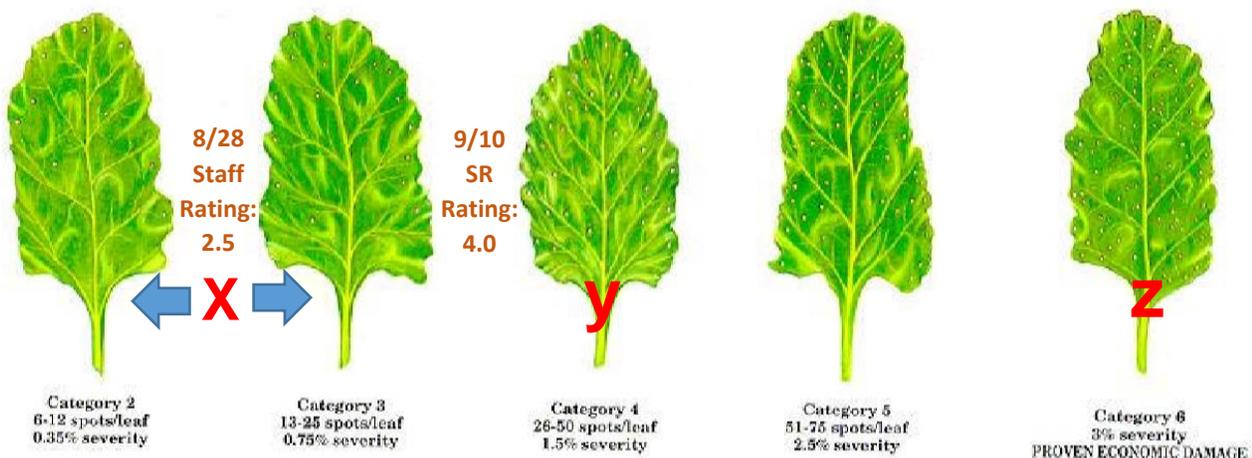
# AGRICULTURAL BEET

September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
Cercospora Leafspot Update

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## 2019 CLS - The Final Chapter: Field Scouting

It is the 2<sup>nd</sup> week in September and we would like to provide you with some information from a couple of recent surveys of the growing area to rate 2019 CLS infections. Your Ag-Staff was asked to conduct a CLS rating while taking their final roots samples over the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> of August. The average score from their ratings was a category 2.5 at that time (see a visual description at “x” found below). More recently, earlier this week in response to a request by your Shareholder Innovation Committee, I began a tour of the co-op to rate over 150 shareholder fields for CLS. Upon dissection of my scores thus far, I calculated an average score of 4.0 (see example “y” below) in the geographies that possess high levels of sugarbeet production pressure. Thus, in less than 14 days our level of infections has increased around 1.0 to 1.5 category levels.



Although the perception might be that the calendar has put an end to the 2019 fungicide spraying season, the reality is that CLS is still finding our weather environment conducive for continued cyclical infection periods that are capable of reaching economic damage prior to full harvest. To observe this reality first hand does not require one to travel more than 150 miles to a sister cooperative where they are lamenting what might have been as their fields begin to visually “brown-down” right before their eyes. What this means to us is that there are fields where there is substantial ROI opportunity to make a final fungicide application when potential loss to CLS is factored in (See 2<sup>nd</sup> page for a 2019 late season field scouting and spray rec sheet). However, even in cases where a final fungicide spray is not likely for whatever reason, field scouting is still highly advised to assist with developing a harvest strategy that recognizes field by field CLS infection levels in order to make an attempt to minimize losses from fields that have or will reach the economic damage threshold.

Steve Roehl – Ag Strategy Manager

## 2019 late season CLS spray decision tool

Steps:

1. Become familiar with CLS damage categories on the back side of this sheet.
  - a. Memorization and/or intimate knowledge of each category is not necessary.
  - b. If you can become well acquainted with the following categories, then adjustment up or down the scale from there should become easier based upon the number of spots and the damage observed.
    - i. Category 1 (earliest onset).
    - ii. Category 5 (pre-economic damage).
    - iii. Category 6 (proven economic damage).
2. Scout fields and establish a rating by field. If different levels exist in field due to variety or some other reason, treat for worst case scenario or treat portions of field separately.
3. **Making the spray decision:** Consider the following flow chart to guide your spray decision...
  - a. *Field ratings falling under **Category 5 or 6** have or are very near a level of proven economic damage. These fields will likely require fungicide coverage through the end of September or for the life of the field depending upon conditions.*
  - b. *Rating of **Category 4**, maintain fungicide protection through 9/19.*
  - c. *Rating of **Category 3**, maintain fungicide protection through 9/16.*
  - d. *Rating of **Category 2**, maintain fungicide protection through 9/13.*
  - e. *Rating of **Category 1**, maintain fungicide protection through 9/10.*
4. Precautions: There is no such thing as a “One size fits all” late season CLS recommendation that fits all scenarios. Thus, this decision tool cannot predict weather and makes several very important assumptions.
  - a. The field **MUST** be scouted and rated weekly using the spot damage categories on the previous page.
  - b. Considerations **MUST** be made for level of varietal resistance. If the variety planted is considered susceptible, the spray recommendation from step 3 should be adjusted by one to two steps.
  - c. Fungicide label PHI restrictions pre-empt all recommendations found on this sheet.
  - d. Consult your SMBSC Agriculturist with any questions.