

AGRICULTURAL BEET

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

Foresight is 2020

Cercospora Leafspot (CLS) 2020: Accepting the 70 Day Challenge!

The calendar may imply that we have reached mid-summer but we are still relatively early in the year relating to CLS control. If you've been reading the SMBSC AgBeet publications or viewing the videos posted to the website, you might have heard reference to an internal goal to keep SMBSC fields relatively clean of CLS for 65 to 70 days until the end of August. The premise of this strategy is based upon "**earning**" additional control options through an aggressive early inoculum reduction strategy. New in 2020 we had strongly advised consideration of an EBDC [0] application in June when the beet canopy is still open to coverage of lower leaves. Thus, this would relate to roughly about 70 days of control or a period from about June 22nd to August 31st.



Consider looking at this as a "70 Day Challenge"! It involves both starting **AND** remaining front-end heavy with your fungicide program. We need to stay out in front of the disease in recognition of its obligate necessity for cyclic repetition of leaf infection, followed by spore production, and then re-infection. Otherwise we risk overloading our ability to maintain control with a normal spray program.

The "**70 Day Challenge**" provides a method to help us understand that CLS control **DOES NOT** have to be the dreadful three-month-long death march of fungicide applications through the end of September that we have historically resigned ourselves too. Rather, if we implement early and aggressive control measures that include a summation of additive application improvements, we can take a more "bite-sized" approach at obtaining CLS control that includes...

- Delaying first spot.
- Significantly reducing inoculum pressure and reinfection.
- Reversing a trend of playing from behind the "inoculum eight ball" that leaves us feeling like we were always trying to fight an uphill battle.
- Additional end-of-season flexibility than we've had in past.



Some of our cooperative area received some unfavorable weather. Try not to let this dampen your spirits relating to the success we had been experiencing to-date with our CLS control. Today we reach the 33% completion mark of our **70 Day Challenge**. A clean field at the end of August is now only about 45 days away at which time WE WILL OWN THE UPPER HAND on the disease rather than vice-versa because time and calendar date become our ally. Remain composed and stay the course relating to all of the factors that are within your control to bring this crop to a successful and fruitful harvest!

Steve Roehl – Ag Strategy Manager