

AGRICULTURAL BEET

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Cercospora Leafspot Update

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

Writing the Final Chapter on the 2019 CLS Season

This edition of AgBeet relates to an appeal to action on your sugarbeet fields to maintain (and in some cases shorten) fungicide spray intervals to protect this crop until harvest time.

2019 CLS pressure has been low thus far but **this is quickly changing!** The Agstaff has identified a few fields with early epidemic proportions of CLS and many others that have epidemic potential (see picture on right courtesy of SMBSC AgStaff).

Please consider the following points and economic principles when making your CLS spray decisions...



- Moderately infected plants are a ticking time-bomb to yours and your neighbor's fields.
- *Opportunity Cost to Choices:* Choosing to save \$20 - \$40 / acre on one to two CLS sprays now could potentially cost infected fields \$100 / acre or more in lost opportunity.
- *The Principle of Productivity:* Healthy fields possess a greater potential for high yield by taking greater advantage of good growing conditions and withstanding other stresses.
- The previous points taken collectively suggest the risk of a no-spray decision could result in revenue loss exceeding \$150 per acre on infected fields vs clean fields.
- Do not hesitate to call your agriculturist if you have any questions.

Bottom Line: Fields with moderate spots now are already infected with the next stage of infection. We've only got 4 more weeks to go to keep fields clean of CLS. The calendar has become our ally. Maintain or shorten intervals depending upon the condition of your field!

Steve Roehl – Ag Strategy Manager