Agricultural Beet

July 6, 2022
2022 Cercospora Early Detection

2022 Cercospora Early Detection Project Update

SMBSC has collaborated on a project for the past two seasons to detect Cercospora in sugar beets without visual leaf spot symptoms. During the 2022 growing season, SMBSC is collaborating on a Minnesota and North Dakota region-wide project to detect Cercospora in asymptomatic sugar beet leaves. This project is a collaborative effort including Dr. Gary Secor (NDSU), Dr. Nathan Wyatt, and Dr. Melvin Bolton (USDA/ARS), as well as Minn-Dak Farmers Cooperative and American Crystal Sugar Company. This project aims to increase the knowledge of Cercospora infection timing and update the current Cercospora Disease Index Value (DIV) forecasting model.

SMBSC Agriculturists are sampling leaves from 50-55 fields that are common line or near 2021 sugar beet fields each week. These fields are both CR+ and traditional CLS varieties. Over the past three weeks, Cercospora has been detected in an increasing percentage of these samples. The table below contains the results to date of the Cercospora Early Detection Project. Increasing detections indicate the disease is present in our growing area and likely to develop leaf spot symptoms when environmental conditions are favorable.

SMBSC recommends applying early EBDC (Application 0) when leaves are 3-4" away from touching between the rows. The 2022 CLS Quicksheet contains information on CLS management and recommended fungicide programs for High Cercospora Tolerant (CR+) and standard CLS tolerant varieties. The CLS Quicksheet is found on the SMBSC website and can be accessed by clicking on the following link.
https://www.smbsc.com/agronomy/Quicksheets/2022%20Cercospora%20Leaf%20Spot%20Quicksheet.pdf

Date of Sampling	Total Fields Sampled	Cercospora Detected Fields	Percent
June 13-14	50	17	34%
June 20-21	55	11	20%
June 27-28	56	35	62.5%

Contact your Agriculturist with any questions regarding Cercospora Leaf Spot.

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