

# 2026 CLS INITIATION AG BEET

We have found ourselves sitting on a rapidly developing sugarbeet crop with great stands and the potential for high extractable sugar per acre for your operation and your cooperative. Early warning notifications are already going out daily to growers as fields approach our spray program initiation threshold of 1500 GDD from planting date, and it is evident that we are hitting this target earlier than normal. As a reminder, **shareholders will only receive these notifications if they have provided their planting information to their Agriculturist.**

Following last year's widespread loss of CLS control in a vast majority of the cooperative combined with unceasing winds from November through June, inoculum loads are high and widely distributed from Lake Reno to Lamberton, and from Appleton to Arlington. Further, observations and ag practice database information have established that our earliest application start dates produce the highest ESA which is critical to support factory performance.

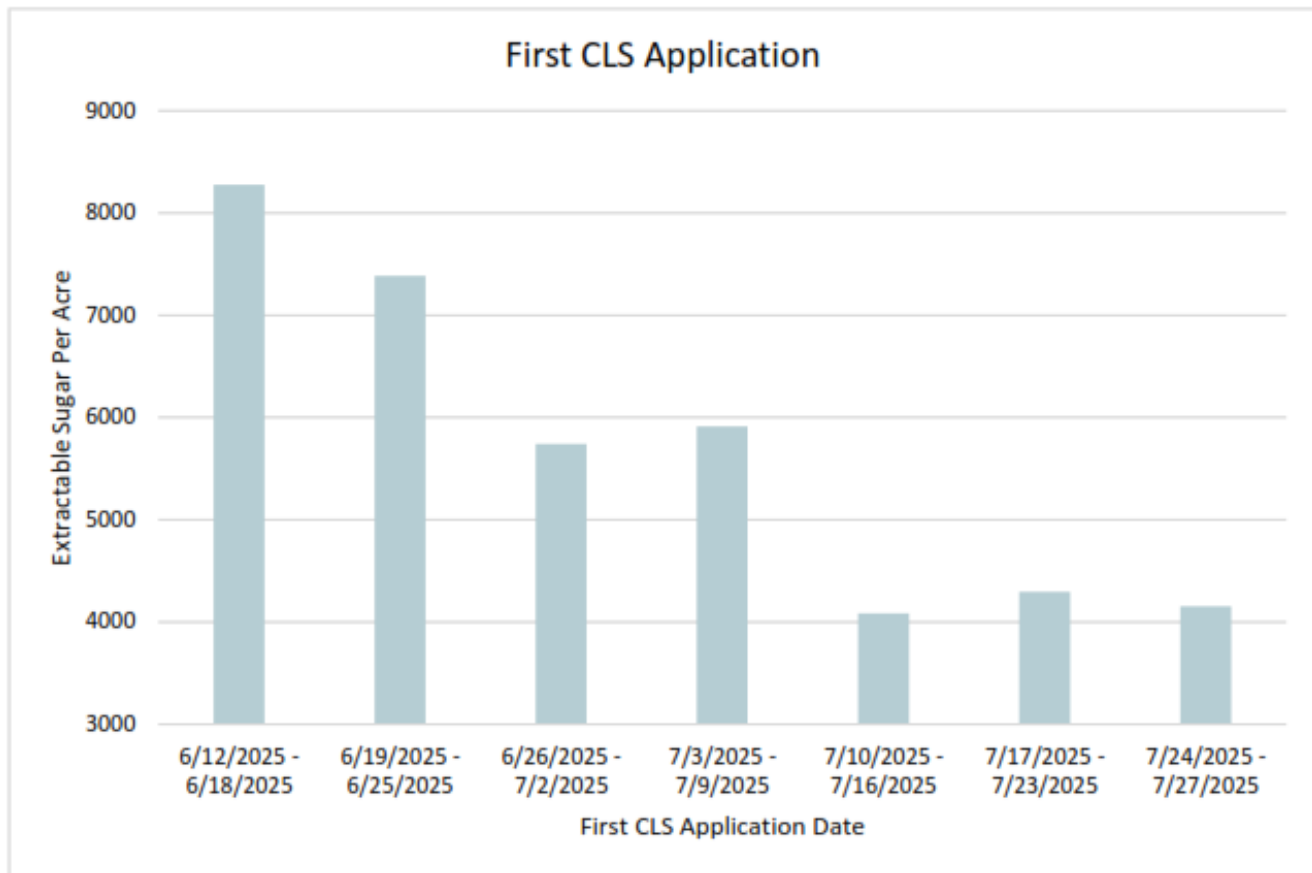


Figure 1: 2025 CLS initiation date range by ESA

With a majority of cooperative fields planted between April 18 through April 24, nearly every operation will have fields already at or rapidly approaching the 1500 GDD initiation mark. This reinforces our modernized practice for proactive fungicide applications prior to full canopy closure when beet leaves reach a 4" inter-row gap versus older methods of waiting for canopy closure or the visual observation of spots. Latent infection can and will occur at this stage. Agriculturists began sampling this week to identify the percentage of fields already detecting the presence of CLS, and we expect results early next week. **Now is the time to execute the initial spray of your fungicide program!**

There are several reasons why early application of your first fungicide is crucial to maintaining high ESA potential. The vast majority of our shareholders have changed the way they spray CLS fungicides and have fine-tuned the details like correct nozzle selection, and adding an appropriate deposition aid to their mix. The following are the most critical general tactics to ensure effective control of CLS this season:

1. Start applications at 1500 GDD and when a 4" canopy gap is present
2. Maintain strict 10-12 day intervals for at least the first 3 applications
3. Stay on schedule – Apply on time or early regardless of forecasted rain events
4. Target optimum spray day conditions to achieve maximum coverage and efficacy

Please review our 5-part video series under the Agronomy tab on the SMBSC website for a deeper understanding of fungicide application BMPs.

With more data than ever pouring into your operations, it is critical to have the right tools for the job. Through Earth Daily, SMBSC has developed a customized GDD model and accounts for every operation. Figure 2, shown to the right, reveals that **some fields have already hit 1500 GDD by June 10!** This is the likely case for many fields in the late April planting window.

Shareholders who have provided planting dates to their Agriculturist will be given access to their Earth Daily GeoSys account to accurately model each field's progress. In addition to custom GDD modeling and forecasting, they may also see accumulated precipitation, and NDVI values to accurately assess and monitor their crop performance.

The most important point to drive home is the fact that the above average daytime high and nighttime low temperatures this season have now pushed GDD accumulation ahead of our epidemic years of 2016, and even 2018.

**IT IS TIME TO SPRAY!!!**

When it comes to early application I'm reminded of my time as an Agriculturist working with a grower who leased in extra shares by the end of November on a yearly basis. He would pay at least 120% of the going rate knowing he could have saved if he held out, but slept well knowing that he was "covered" well before a critical deadline. With your 1500 GDD deadline rapidly approaching, and with goals to achieve and maintain more ESA this season, it is time to act. Remember good spray tactics and that even if it is a day or two early, **a good spray day, is a good day to spray!**

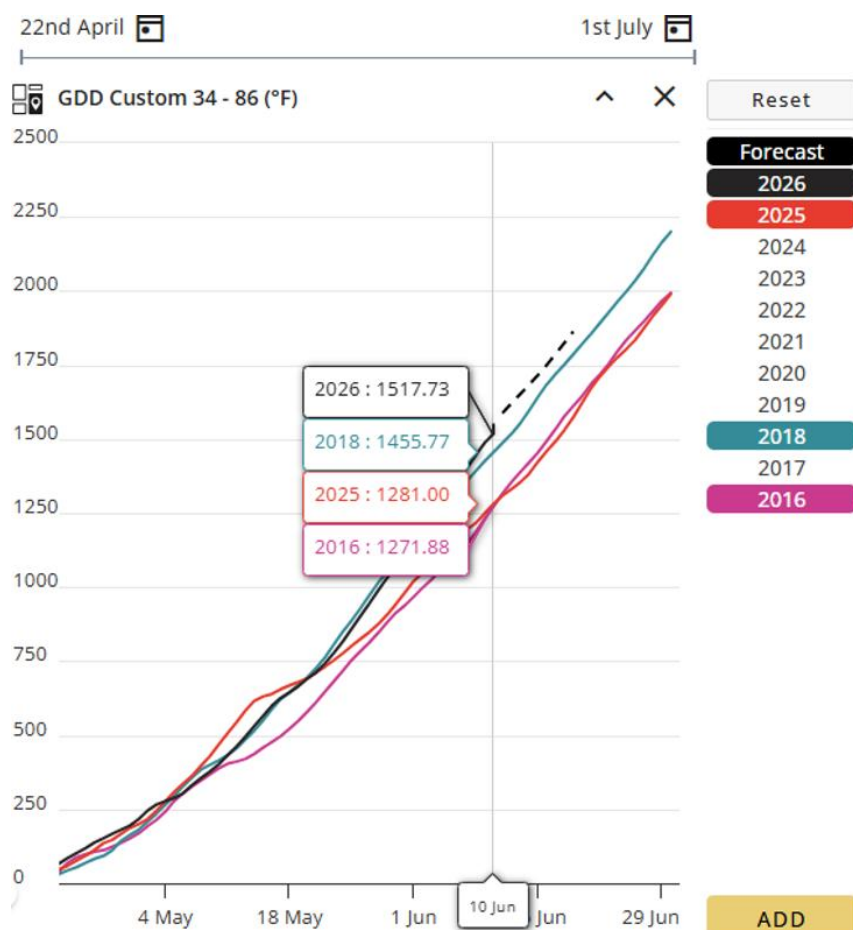


Figure 2: EarthDaily App individual field custom GDD reporting



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