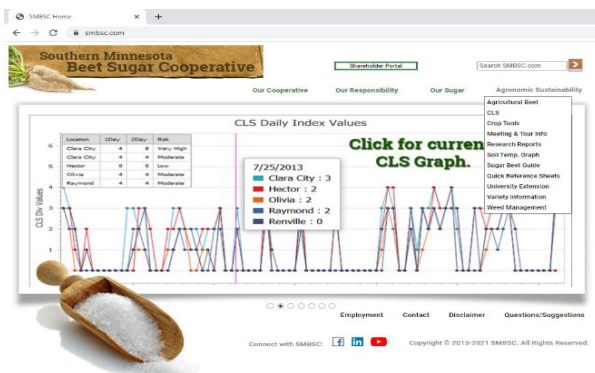# AGRICULTURAL BEET

July 15th, 2021

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

2021: Maintaining the Momentum

## Accessing and interpreting SMBSC-CLS Disease Index Values to make fungicide spray decisions

The SMBSC research team places six weather stations into sugarbeet plot areas each year to monitor humidity and temperature data. The data is then incorporated into a model that is used to predict the relative likelihood for Cercospora Leafspot (CLS) spore germination and infection. This information can easily be found on the SMBSC website home page (see screenshot) or by clicking the following link https://www.smbsc.com/Agronomy/CLS/CLSDefault.aspx

This season started on the dry side, which may have provided some early season reprieve from severe infection opportunities. However, it would be inaccurate to say that we have not recently experienced opportunities for disease spores to germinate and infect our crop. In fact, a quick look at the Disease Index Value (DIV) graph from July 14th found to the right shows that DIV's have peaked into the danger area (represented by the pink rectangle) three separate times since late June and the first peak in late June lasted for three full days.
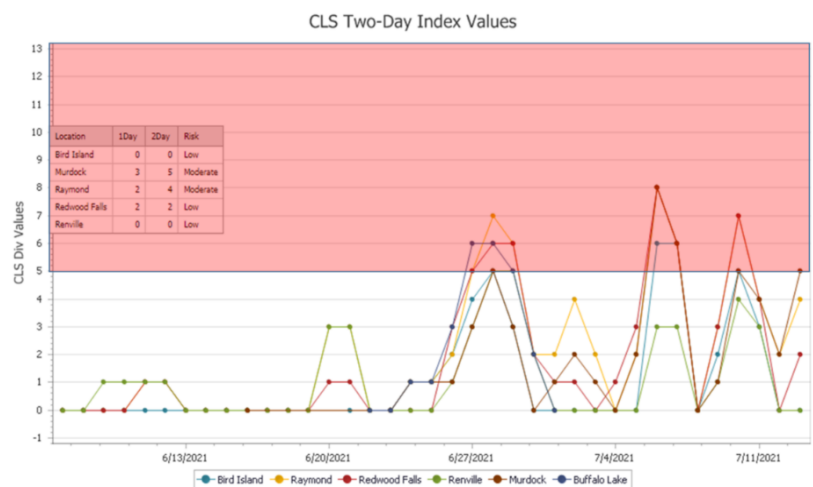
Bottom line: Recent rains, humidity, and dews have provided infection opportunity for CLS. Spots are becoming more prevalent and easy to find. The website-based DIV graph is easy to access and provides another tool to assist you with making good fungicide application decisions.

Steve Roehl – Ag Strategy Manager