



2015 Sugarbeet Cercospora Leafspot Fungicide Applications Could Start Early

Cercospora leafspot fungicide applications to sugarbeets may need to start earlier than normal because of environmental conditions and growth stage.

Timely planting, excellent emergence and favorable soil moisture conditions have the 2015 Michigan sugarbeet crop off to a great start. Plant growth has been excellent and root diseases have been minimal. A significant portion of the sugarbeet crop will be canopied by June 20th, the longest day of the year. Early canopies and higher than normal BEETcast Disease Severity Values (DSV's) may indicate a need for growers to apply crop protection fungicides **before July 1st**.

Michigan State University Extension has shown a well-timed first application is critical for setting the foundation for effective Cercospora control. It should be applied just prior to the first spot being seen in the field. BEETcast (<http://www.Michiganbeets.com>) is a very effective tool to help grower's time fungicide application throughout the season. Depending on the BEETcast risk management zone and variety susceptibility, first applications may start as early as 45 DSV's. **In some areas this may occur prior to July 1st this year.** Growers in the "Red Zone" with a susceptible variety may want to consider an EBDC application as early as 35 DSV's. Then continue season long interval sprays starting at 50-55 DSV and continuing thru September 15th. Length of spray intervals may vary depending on the label and/or management zone.

Documented strobilurin and benzimidazole fungicide resistance has been confirmed since 2011. Depending on the level of resistance, these products will not be reliable in controlling disease and should *never* be applied alone. To help slow down resistance to other classes of fungicides, producers will need to follow these guidelines.

- Always rotate fungicides classes. Ideally do not use any chemistry class more than twice.
- Tank mix triazoles, strobilurins, Tins and benzimidazole every time with an EBDC or copper. EBDC's or copper can be tanked mixed every time.
- Do not reduce fungicides rates, always use at suggested rate.
- Spray fungicides at recommended spray intervals according to label or recommended BEETcast DSV's.
- Use 20-25 gallons of water with a minimum of 90 PSI. Use surfactants or additives according to product label.
- Spray all fungicides as a preventative program, there are no curative fungicides for Cercospora leafspot.

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One fungicide that is widely used in other beet growing areas and has very good efficacy are Tin type products including Super Tin, Agritin and Minerva Duo. Minerva Duo is a new premix fungicide combining Tin with tetraconazole (Eminent). The Tin fungicide group is currently underutilized in the Michigan growing region. These fungicides are our most effective contact materials and offer a completely different mode of action for Cercospora leaf spot control. This mode of action will become increasingly important to help prevent resistance to the triazoles. The product can be applied safely if you read and follow labeled directions.

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