Don't Ask, Don't Tell
Late Blight in 2009

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Where does LB come from initially?

- Overwintering from previous year
  - Cull piles
  - Volunteers
- Imported from another location
  - Potato seed
  - Tomatoes

Reporting

- 1990's-early 2000's
  - Field scouts, consultants, growers
- Lack of significant late blight since 2004.
  - Elimination of scouting program.
- Current status
  - Is late blight under-reported?

Recent Survey

- 27 responses
  - 13 consultants/crop advisors
  - 12 University
  - 2 Private or other
- Likelihood to report LB? (0-10, 10=highly likely)
  - Mean = 9.4
  - Range = 5-10
  - Median = 10

Reasons for Reporting

- Limit spread
- Obligation to warn others
- Information helps dictate control options
- Neighbors need to know
  - Community disease (like the common cold)
- Stupid not to share

Hesitations to Reporting

- Don't want uninvited people in my field.
- Fear of backlash from processors.
- If it is already reported, it is not necessary.
- Not without growers permission.

Other Comments

- I want better cookies!

Quotes

"I saw late blight in some of my fields in the past. However, late blight had already been reported in my area, so I didn't think it was important for me to say anything."

Quotes

"My employer does not want me to say anything about any blight we may or may not have."

Quotes

"I don't want you to say anything until more tests can be done. For all we know this could be something completely different."

Quotes

"If this gets out, I'm really worried that my contract might be cancelled."

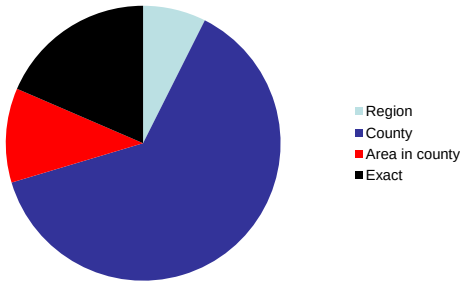
Quotes

"We don't have any late blight in our area. Our growers are just better farmers than in other areas."

How should late blight be reported?

- Geography
  - County
  - Region
  - Exact location
- Communication
  - Email
  - Hotline
  - Other
- What is the responsibility/obligation to report?

How Should Late Blight be Reported?



Late Blight in 2009

- One “false start” in June.
- Three fields confirmed in late August
  - 1 primary, 2 secondary
  - “Under the radar” communication
- Other unreported occurrences?

Fungicide Management Options

- Revus Top (also early blight)
- Omega (also white mold)
- Gavel (also early blight)
- Tanos (also early blight)
- Reason (also early blight)
- Super Tin (also early blight)
- Forum, Previcur, Curzate
- Phosphorous acid (only tubers, also pink rot)
- Standard protectants (also early blight)

- NOT Endura