Pest Alert for the week ending 6-12-2015

Welcome to the new weekly potato disease update for southern Idaho. For the rest of the growing season we will be posting weekly disease updates from around the potato growing regions in southern Idaho.

Dr. Mike Thornton reports that rows are closed/closing in most fields in the Treasure Valley region so growers are focused on late blight/early blight/white mold fungicide applications. There have been reports from across the state of some seed lots with relatively high incidences of PVY. With all the excess rain that we had in May, some growers are reporting problems with Fusarium seed piece decay after planting (see http://bit.ly/1FdrZNw for more information).

With the wet May weeds have been more of a problem this spring and are expected to be a problem as the season progresses. Dr. Pam Hutchinson produced a handy article on how to deal with weeds in your potatoes this year (http://bit.ly/1MPv3pq).

The very mild winter we had has also led to a big problem this year with volunteer potatoes showing up across the state (http://bit.ly/1Thgv6p). Volunteer potatoes can harbor diseases such as late blight and increase the risk of a late blight epidemic. For information on what fungicides to use for managing late blight see the article recently published by Dr. Jeff Miller of Miller Research and Dr. Phill Wharton from UI (http://bit.ly/1Q4tmt). For up to date information on potato diseases in Idaho and across the country follow us on twitter. http://www.twitter.com/potatodiseases