Pest Alert for the week ending 6-26-2015

Dr. Mike Thornton reports that there are not a lot of disease issues coming through the door right now. In the Treasure Valley area, we are seeing a little bit of early blight on lower leaves, especially on plants that are stressed due to virus infection or other issues. Speaking of stress, the hot days and warm nights forecast for the next week or so can be very hard on potato plants. To reduce the incidence of physiological disorders like sugar ends, it is important to adjust irrigation schedules to account for the increase in water demand by the crop. Growers cannot afford to get behind on irrigation under these conditions, as even a single stress event at this critical time of tuber development can cause high levels of malformed tubers and reduce processing quality.

In the Magic Valley area Dr. Nora Olsen reports that the only significant disease issues they are seeing are related to PVY infection of potatoes. The high temperatures in the area also appear to be putting some crops under stress as many which were almost at row closure last week still have not closed rows yet this week.

In east and north eastern part of the state (Pocatello up through Tetonia), there have been no disease problems reported apart from some PVY issues. Many crops are at flowering now and should be at row closure in the next week or so. As with other parts of the state hot days and warm nights are forecast for the next couple of days so it is imperative to adjust irrigation schedules to account for the increase in water demand by the crop. Increased stress on the plants can make them more susceptible to disease and insect problems.

For up to date information on potato diseases in Idaho and across the country follow us on twitter. http://www.twitter.com/potatodiseases