Pest Alert for the week ending 7-10-2015

LATE BLIGHT ALERT!!
This morning (7-10-15) late blight was found in a growers field in Bingham Co. Samples were submitted to UI and confirmed as late blight. Current weather conditions are very favorable for disease spread and growers should take appropriate measures to protect their crops. This includes increasing scouting of crops in the area and switching to a systemic late blight fungicide on a 7-day spray schedule. For a list of effective late blight fungicides see our Potato Progress article available for download here (http://bit.ly/1Q4tmty). Isolates from the outbreak will be submitted for genotyping to determine which strain of the pathogen it is.

In the Treasure Valley area, Dr. Mike Thornton reports they are starting to see more insect and disease problems. Insects causing some damage include loopers and lygus bugs. Diseases of note are early blight, white mold, and bacterial stem rot. In general the crop looks less healthy after that period of intense heat. Stressed plants are more prone to all kinds of disease and insect damage, so growers should be focused on irrigation and nutrient management as part of their overall pest management programs. Although, the hot dry conditions in the Treasure valley are not currently conducive to a late blight outbreak with disease found in the eastern part of the state, growers should be on alert for signs of the disease and consider incorporating a fungicide such as Revus Top or !Zing, or Tanos which have combined activity against both early blight and late blight in their spray program.

In the Magic Valley area Dr. Jeff Miller reports they are starting to see more issues with early blight and white mold now that the rows have closed.

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