



Vegetable Disease Update – Amanda J. Gevens, Assistant Professor & Extension Vegetable Plant Pathologist, UW-Madison, Dept. of Plant Pathology, 608-890-3072 (office), Email: gevens@wisc.edu. Vegetable Path Webpage: <http://www.plantpath.wisc.edu/wivegdis/>

Late blight update: The tomato late blight that was identified in Milwaukee County WI on 30 July is of the US-23 genotype/strain. This is the second county with report of late blight in WI in 2014.

As reported in the last newsletter, we have genotyped additional potato late blight samples from Portage County WI and have determined that both US-8 (18 Jul) and US-23 (25 Jul) are present. We have not identified both genotypes in the same variety and field, but both appear to be causing late blight on potato in close proximity. US-8 is an A2 mating type and is resistant to metalaxyl/mefenoxam fungicides. US-23 is an A1 mating type and is sensitive to metalaxyl/mefenoxam fungicides.

Outside of WI, all other reports of tomato and potato late blight from the U.S. in 2014 have been of the US-23 genotype.

Late blight is a community plant disease and it is important that all growers of tomatoes and potatoes (commercial and home gardens) be familiar with late blight symptoms, be actively managing late blight, and be aware of the potential for crop loss. All infected plants can be a potential source of more inoculum for further spread. Careful management of this disease during the production season and into the Fall/Winter is critical to ensure a clean, pathogen-free start to the 2015 season. Management at all levels of production greatly aids in overall reduction in late blight and need for intensive fungicide usage which is costly in economic, as well as human and environmental health aspects.

For further symptom and management information:

<http://www.plantpath.wisc.edu/wivegdis/pdf/2014/July%2030%202014%20Dis%20Supplement%2003.pdf>

In order to help better understand the disease at hand, **please submit samples to my lab** or work through your county agent and request that they send to me for genotyping. *Even if a sample has already been submitted from your county and a genotype determination has been made.* All we need to know is the county of sample origin. Identification of genotype at the county level would be very helpful in improving our understanding of this epidemic and potential future risks. Lab address is: Amanda Gevens, 1630 Linden Dr, Room 689, Plant Pathology Dept., University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI 53706. Please send infected leaves in a slightly inflated ziplock bag with no paper towel. Overnight shipping is best.