

## Potato Blight Control

In order to control potato blight it is important to stick to a definite programme, using one or more of a number of products. The aim is not to have any blighted potatoes in your store.

Please read on for details on controlling Potato Blight through organic and non-organic methods.

### *Organic Methods:*

#### **Bordeaux Mixture**

- 10 Lb. Copper Sulphate per 100 per gallons
- 12 ½ Lb. Hydrated Lime per 100 gallons

#### **Burgundy Mixture**

- 10 Lb. Copper Sulphate per 100 per gallons
- 12 ½ Lb. Washing Soda per 100 gallons

Spray at the first sign of blight, or when the plants are meeting along the rows, followed by a repeat spray 3 weeks later. Observe media blight warnings.

In some years, 4, 5 or more sprays may be necessary at fortnightly intervals beginning before the crops are earthed-up.

### *Non – Organic methods:*

Most potato sprays are packed in packaging sufficient for a number of acres therefore should be viewed as a season-long package!

1. **Dithane** – best known, but only works on the surface of the potato and needs to be re-applied after a shower of rain. Okay to use for the first few sprays, until the plants start to meet along the rows.
2. Once the crop starts to meet along the rows it is best to apply a 'systemic' fungicide which will work irrespective of the weather conditions, normally gives cover for 10 to 14 days depending on the blight pressure.

A suggested programme would be:

**Dithane** - until the crop meets along the rows, 1/3 acre and 10 acre pack

*Then*

**Ridomil** (5 acre pack) 3 sprays up to 1<sup>st</sup> August, 10 – 14 day intervals

**Shirlan** (6.25 acre pack) can be used all season, 10 – 14 day intervals

*Or*

**Epok** (mixture of Ridomil and Shirlan) 10 acre pack

*Or*

**Proxanil** (1.0 acre pack) systemic and curative (up to 3 days after blight infection)

*Followed by*

**Ranman** (12.5 acre pack) from fast growing canopy to crop withering

*Or*

**Electis** (7.5 acre pack) from full canopy to senescence, good to prevent tuber blight

For the small holder/ garden **Proxanil** is probably the best option as it can be used right through the season and it has curative action if it is applied a day or two after a blight warning. It is the most convenient pack, 1 litre will treat 1 acre. Apply at 7 day interval during blight season for best results.