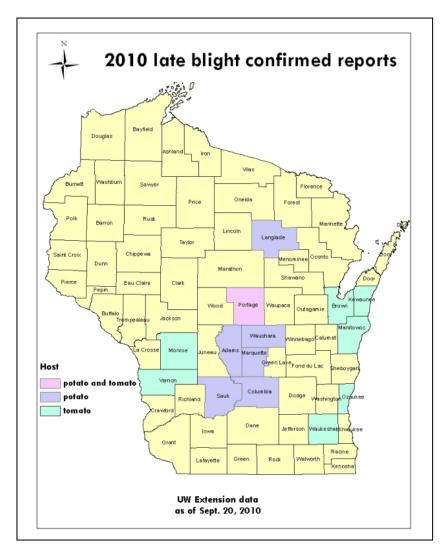
Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

Wisconsin Pest Survey Report

2010 POTATO LATE BLIGHT

http://pestsurvey.wi.gov/

Potato late blight (*Phytophthora infestans*) was observed in 14 Wisconsin counties in 2010 according to grower reports compiled by the University of Wisconsin. The first report of late blight came on July 14 from a potato field in Marquette County and tomato plants in Waukesha County. Potato growers were proactive protecting fields as recommended by management guidelines outlined on the UW Vegetable Pathology website, http://www.plantpath.wisc.edu/wivegdis/.



DATCP nursery inspectors checked retail stores for late blight infected tomato seedlings, the putative source of the 2009 outbreak. Eight suspect plants were forwarded to Plant Industry laboratory but they were free of late blight. Most suspect tomato samples were infected with Septoria leaf spot, DATCP inspectors and UW staff closely cooperated in following up on reports of infected potato fields. DATCP has the authority to enforce the removal of cull piles and issue abatement orders on late blight infected fields. Potato cull piles must be disposed of by May 20th of each year, to prevent the over wintering of the disease. So far the late blight pathogen can only overwinter in living tissue, such as tubers.

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