

Cercospora Leaf Spot Update – August 1, 2017

This season we will be sending a Cercospora leafspot update regularly to keep you updated on the conditions we are seeing. Below are several observations and recommendations on the current situation.

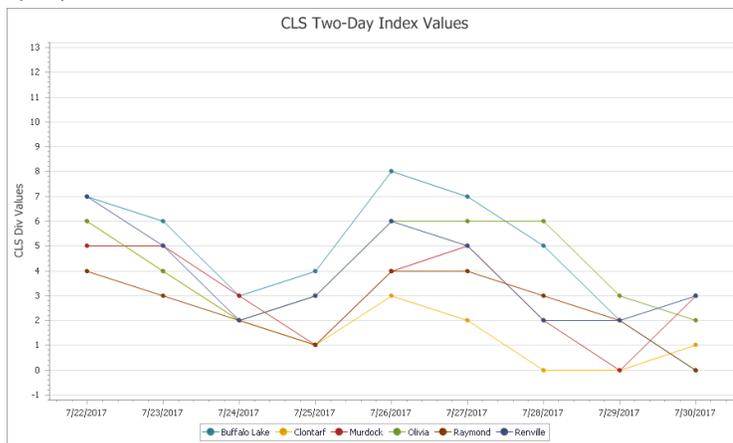
1. Cercospora Leafspot can be found in most fields. The level of disease present varies based on planting date and spray program. In fields with stretched spray intervals or late start dates, CLS has increased to concerning levels. Picture 1 was taken on July 31 from a field with a delayed start date and stretched spray intervals. The levels of disease present in these fields will be difficult to manage for the remainder of the season and will exceed the economic threshold for the disease.



Picture 1

-Aggressive spray programs should continue through August on all fields to manage disease levels below the economic threshold.

2. Disease index values have reached moderate to high levels over the past two weeks. (Picture 2) The Cercospora spots from these warm and humid conditions will be apparent on the leaves over the next few days. Spray intervals should be on a 10-12 day schedule. We cannot afford extended spray intervals and unprotected foliage when inoculum levels are this high. Extended spray intervals will result in CLS levels as seen in Picture 1 above and economic losses.



Picture 2

3. **Tank-mix every fungicide application** with fungicides possessing two different modes of action. We have received reports of Cercospora recommendations that do not include a tank-mix partner. **Failure to tank-mix every fungicide application will decrease the success of the CLS management program this season and will increase the risk of additional fungicide resistance developing.**
4. Cercospora infects entire fields and does not respect fence lines or roads. It is important that all acres are protected. Everyone is in this battle together.
5. **Contact your Agriculturist with specific questions regarding Cercospora management. They are an excellent resource and have the most current information on the Cercospora leafspot situation.**

Mark Bloomquist
Research Director