

# AGRICULTURAL BEET

June 14th, 2021

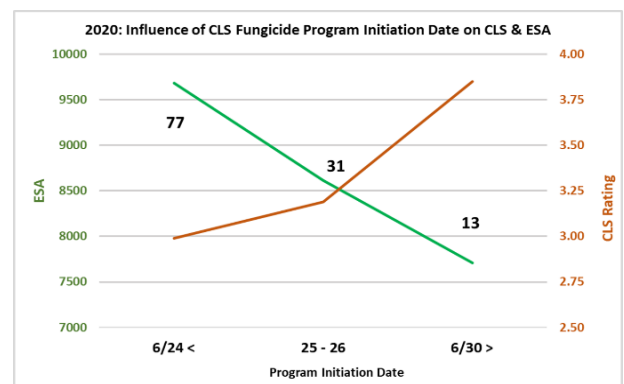
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## 2021: Maintaining the Momentum

### Massive implications to timely CLS fungicide program initiation for successful CLS management

Due to limited alternatives, a poll of SMBSC shareholders after the 2018 CLS epidemic suggested that a vast majority would have chosen to initiate their fungicide program earlier in the interest of disease avoidance. Since then, there has been additional information uncovered that support this strategy and place it at the crux of successful CLS control. Additionally, *Fungicide Resistance in North America* published in 2019 by the American Phytopathological Society strongly suggests that use of a protectant fungicide prior to observation of disease symptoms is an effective strategy in avoiding further development of fungicide resistance.

Summarization of the CLS inputs of 35 shareholder operations in the 2020 SMBSC Special CLS Database (graph to the right) provides significant insight into the importance of timely program initiation on delayed disease onset. CLS severity increased significantly in 2020 if program initiation was delayed beyond June 26<sup>th</sup>. Further, the ESA of the participating fields declined linearly from the earliest start date category to the latest. Combined, this data set provides strong evidence that a key to relative absence of CLS at harvest time is strongly correlated to a “Front-end heavy” approach to preventing the disease from ever gaining a foothold in your fields.



**Determining the right time to begin fungicide program:** One tool that you can use to assist you with this important decision includes scouting your fields to allow your crop to tell you the answer. Spraying when the first leaves to touch are still 3” to 4” apart (the width of your 2021 Sugarbeet Pocket Guide), tells you when you have reached a critical window to obtain protection for lower canopy leaves. GDU accumulation from planting date represents another tool as it relates to the crop stage where we would generally expect predisposition to the disease and are at risk of early CLS infection.



The dry weather we have experienced in 2021 has some shareholders considering a later timing than suggested above. This approach may have some merit but should be approached with caution! It is vital to recognize that... 1) lack of rain does not preclude free water on leaves from morning dew formation and 2) the recommendation to spray prior to leaf canopy recognizes that this is the **ONLY** opportunity we will possess for unimpeded access to the lower leaves. Do not allow yourself to be fooled into complacency! Once CLS becomes established in your sugar beet field, there is no playing catch-up with this reproductive “Machine”. For more information on CLS – BMPs at SMBSC, please view the five part video series on CLS management at <https://www.smbcsc.com/Agronomy/CLS/CLSDefault.aspx>.

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