

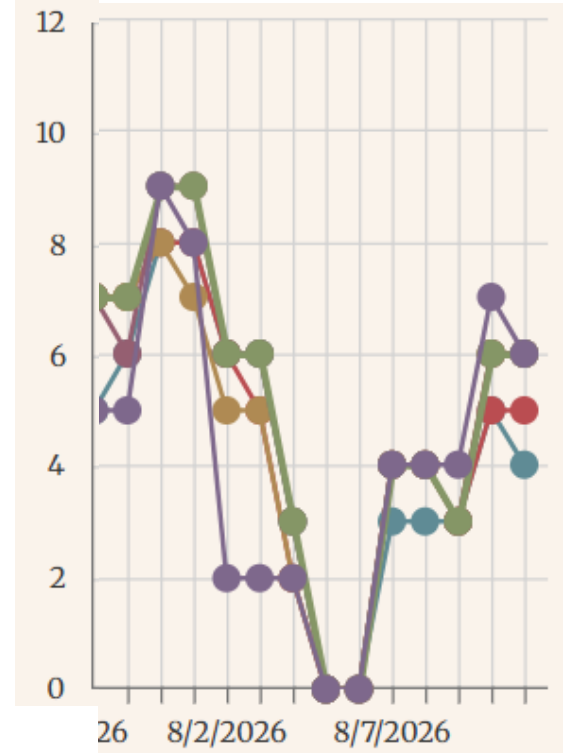
CLS PROGRAM - FINISHING TOUCHES

8.12.26

While maintaining an optimistic view of this crop's potential, we must keep in mind that Cercospora Leaf Spot has yet to finish making its full effect known! After receiving a much needed cool down, the index values (shown below) have yet again begun a steady creep upward. Ten years ago in 2016, at this point of the season we witnessed a crop with great potential begin to burn down due to the loss of strobilurin efficacy. This would ultimately lead us to immeasurable crop loss by dropping sugar to 14.74%. Burning down yet again in 2018 and 2025 resulted in sugars of 14.85% and 14.32% respectively. 2026 is dangerously similar, with CLS already established in most fields and dew points creeping up into the 70's with some heat and moisture returning, **WE ARE UNDER EXTREME PRESSURE AND RISK BURNING DOWN AGAIN!!**



As the Agriculturists headed out to take root yield check samples this week, they are also rating these fields for CLS. The beets may be coming in plenty heavy, but currently we find ourselves at a **1.9** average rating across 160 fields. Although this is relatively low, the greater concern lies with the few 6-7 ratings and the fact that there are no absolute zeros. **This means that every single field has infection and must receive follow up protective sprays!**



By rating your fields and referencing the CLS Progression Prediction graph, we know that it takes as little as 4 weeks for a 1 rating to become a 5. We should now **consider all fields to be flirting with the danger zone** and treat them accordingly with continued fungicide applications. This will be the only way to protect what will be a record crop for many SMBSC growers. With most grower operations shortening their spray intervals and soon completing our recommended 7-spray program, we have limited options for adding an 8th and 9th application. Our research and agriculturist staff has discussed these late season options and can assist you in putting the finishing touches on your CLS program. Please contact them with any questions.

SMBSC Shareholders have done an outstanding job protecting this crop thus far. We simply cannot let CLS steal away our efforts now as we approach the finish line!



Cody Bakker, Ag Strategy Manager

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