

AGRICULTURAL BEET

August 10th, 2021

Southern Minnesota Beet Sugar Cooperative
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2021: Maintaining the Momentum

Assessing recent rainfall and DIVs relating to 70-Day CLS Challenge and strategy reevaluation.

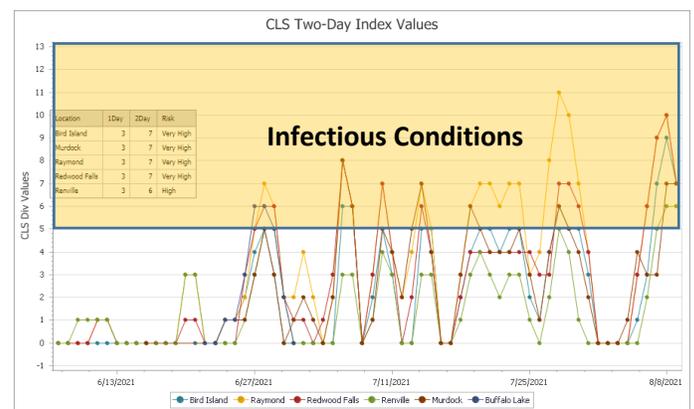
We now find ourselves within 3 weeks of successful attainment of a CLS-clean field on September 1st. No doubt, the predominately droughty conditions of June and July played a significant role in placing us in our current position by making it difficult for CLS spores to move to (and germinate on), beet leaves.

Yet, now we must ponder the impact of a relatively widespread rain event on the 7th. Although it is unfortunate that not everyone received this badly-needed rain, I've received a number of phone calls that suggests that there is concern in the countryside. This anxiety is warranted because the rain provided dirt splashing as well as significant free water for spore germination and potential infection.

However, developing a general recommendation for this widespread concern gets complicated. SMBSC sugarbeet fields reside in a myriad of fungicide coverage scenarios relating to program initiation, previous spray intervals, and the most recent spray interval. These are times when both visualizing and simplifying the potential outcomes can be useful in deriving the most correct option.

Bottom Line: Here are some realities that I think we can agree upon at this particular juncture...

- If you had a clean field prior to the rain event, you have earned the privilege to remain calm.
- However, rain splash has likely introduced leaves to CLS spores even in previously clean fields.
- Thus, depending upon your specific scenario...
 - If you were scheduled to spray, resume applications as soon as you are able.
 - If you'd sprayed prior to the rain, answers are not as clear but conditions and DIV's (see graph) suggest to shorten intervals to obtain "Shock & Awe" control to prevent new infections from rain splash.
 - DIV's indicate we have entered a significant infection period that has the potential to impact fields prior to harvest.
 - The finish line is in sight. This rain event may force you to show resolve to take this crop the rest of the way. Look for good spray days to maximize Shock & Awe spray coverage.



Steve Roehl – Ag Strategy Manager