

# Agricultural Beet

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## Fall Tillage for CLS Inoculum Reduction

With the favorable environment for CLS we experienced this summer, we saw many fields turning brown as we approached the end of the season. This undoubtedly impacted individual fields and the overall sugar and tons for the Coop as a whole. However, the negative impact of these brown fields doesn't stop there. As we plan for 2025, we will have a higher inoculum load to deal with, especially on fields that border fields that were heavily infected in 2024. Data shows that if we bury CLS inoculum we can significantly reduce disease development in the following year. We would highly recommend that if you have a field that started turning brown this fall that you would be aggressive with your tillage and bury that inoculum. At a minimum, we would highly recommend doing this along the 150-200' that will border next year's beet field.



Picture taken Aug 4, 2021, from an SMBSC CLS management research trial. The treatment that used aggressive tillage to bury inoculum had a foliar rating that was **2 points lower** than the plots that were not tilled (1-9 rating scale).