

Section VIII.

Mites & Sap-sucking Insects

WASHINGTON POTATO IPM PROGRAM – 2001

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Starting in 2000, growers had access to alternative products for control of GPA and CPB. These products included Fulfill and Success, respectively. Additionally, Provado received a label change allowing it to be applied by air, making it a more effective product. In 2001, growers obtained access to Actara for aphids and Colorado potato beetle. Grower use of these products was widely expected to be minimal due to concern over their cost effectiveness in commercial conditions and lack of knowledge of how to use the products. In an attempt to respond to the widespread losses associated with net necrosis, the Washington State Potato Commission initiated a potato IPM program on early season potatoes in May of 2000. The project covered 1,500 acres, half of which included use of alternative products for control of GPA and CPB. A large amount of very promising information was generated on insect (pest and beneficial) and disease patterns in the fields from 2000. For example for fields that had PLRV, the "Program" fields had an average of 7.1% PLRV, while the conventionally managed fields has an average of 14.3% PLRV.

The WSPC, WSCP and agrichemical companies expanded the project to 4,200 acres in 2001. In 2001, growers who successfully adopted the program were able to keep PLRV to 0 to 2.5%. Fields in the program which were not treated according to the program had PLRV levels that ranged from 10 to 76%. An important cause of high levels of PLRV in some fields was a lack of knowledge on the part of applicators on how to appropriately use the new products. Information generated from this program uncovered suboptimal use patterns. Instructions on how to more correctly use the new products were disseminated to growers throughout the Washington potato industry. Plans are underway for a 2002 potato IPM program that will expand the research component to include mites and lepidopterous pests of potatoes. The number of acres formally included in the program will be similar or less than that in 2001. However, instructional information will be provided to all growers in the state on how best to implement the IPM program on their own.

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