



MAURITIUS SUGAR INDUSTRY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Recommendation Sheet No. 33
(November 1985)

CONTROL OF EARLY BLIGHT OF POTATO

Early blight of potato caused by Alternaria solani appears, contrarily to its name, late in the crop cycle. The disease which is characterized by dark spots with concentric rings, can cause severe defoliation and induce economic losses in plantings throughout the island, especially during the second growing season, from September to November. Occasionally severe attacks have been found late in first season plantings, in July-August.

The following treatment applied as a foliar spray gives an excellent control of the disease :

Rovral FLO 250 : 2 litres/ha (800 ml/arpent)*

The fungicide should be applied weekly as a routine treatment, as from the eighth week after planting. Growers familiar with the disease can initiate treatment upon the appearance of the first characteristic symptoms of infection.

Rovral replaces treatment with Dithane M45 made in Recommendation Sheet No. 8, which has proved unsatisfactory against early blight.

* Volume of sprays :

Motor sprayers (mistblowers) : 530 litres/ha (50 gallons water/arp)

Ordinary knapsack or tractor mounted sprayers : 1,060 litres/ha (100 gallons water/arp)

NOTE :

For the treatment of late blight, the mixtures of Ridomil or Curzate with Dithane M 45 as laid down in Recommendation Sheet No. 8 are maintained.