



# MAURITIUS SUGAR INDUSTRY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Recommendation Sheet No. 8  
(May 1981)

## CONTROL OF POTATO LEAF BLIGHTS

Late blight is one of the most important diseases of potatoes in Mauritius. The potato varieties currently grown are susceptible to this disease and the application of fungicidal sprays is therefore obligatory, otherwise serious losses may be incurred. Relatively cold, humid weather favours the disease and the frequency of fungicidal treatment should be varied accordingly.

Early blight has also become important in recent years. Contrary to its name, in Mauritius it usually intensifies in the later stages of crop growth, 8 - 9 weeks after planting.

The treatments given below are effective against both diseases.

### 1. Fungicidal treatments

(a) Ridomil 25 WP 0.24 kg + Dithane M 45 1.25 kg/arp

Superhumid zone: First spraying 3 - 4 weeks after planting, thereafter every 10 days

Humid & Subhumid zones: First spraying 4 - 5 weeks after planting (6 - 7 weeks in dry warm weather), thereafter every 15 days.

(b) Curzate 0.125 kg + Dithane M 45 1.25 kg/arp

Superhumid zone: First spraying 3 - 4 weeks after planting, thereafter every 7 days

Humid & Subhumid zones: First spraying 4 - 5 weeks after planting (6 - 7 weeks in dry warm weather), thereafter every 7 - 10 days.

(c) Dithane M 45 1.25 kg/arp

May be used in the subhumid zone; also as a precautionary measure in the humid zone when conditions are not at all favourable to late blight, i.e. when weather is dry and warm: First spraying 4 - 5 weeks after planting, thereafter every 7 - 10 days depending on weather.

If the incidence of late blight suddenly increases in a field as a result of weather favourable to it or because initial spraying was delayed by rain, it is strongly recommended that Ridomil + Dithane M 45 be applied at once and repeated after 5 days irrespective of any previous treatments that may have been made; thereafter the spraying should be continued as at (a) or (b) above.

Ridomil and Curzate should never be used alone.

Ridomil, Curzate and Dithane M 45 are compatible with the insecticides and acaricides currently used on potato (see Recommendation Sheet No. 6) so that combined sprays are possible.

2. Volume of sprays

Motor sprayers (Mistblowers) : 50 gallons water/arp

Ordinary Knapsack sprayers and tractor-mounted sprayers:  
100 gallons water/arp