Tomato And Potato Blight Warning

The purpose of this statement is to summarize the late blight situation to date.

Late blight appeared on potatoes in Florida in November 1946. While it did not become epidemic it continued to spread slowly in that state during December and January and by February 1 was general on potatoes and tomatoes along the lower east coast of Florida.

During early Febraury it spread northward along the east coast of Florida. Sprays and dusts of fixed copper of Dithane were bringing the disease under control.

Severe cold weather in mid-February killed almost all potatoes and tomatoes along the east coast and prevented further development of the disease there, but late blight had appeared on the west coast near Bradenton where frost damage was not extensive.

By the middle of March late blight had not re-appeared on the east coast of Florida while on the west coast it was general on tomatoes, but not causing severe losses. Practically all growers in that area were spraying either with fixed copper or Dithane or alternating with the two. Power equipment gave best results, but hand operated sprayers were satisfactory on small acreages if the job was done thoroughly.

During early April rains and temperatures in Florida were favorable for spread of late blight, and it became more destructive on the west coast. It also reappeared on the new crop of both potatoes and tomatoes on the east coast. In that area fixed copper or Dithane dusts are being used extensively and are reported to be holding losses to a minimum.

In February it was reported that the late blight fungus had overwintered on tomato vines in the field in Alabama.

In Louisiana, late blight was found on tomato seedlings and older plants in a greenhouse at Lafayette in February. A report dated April 15 states that late blight was first seen on potatoes in the field in Louisiana on April 7. Heavy rains, wind and cool, cloudy weather for several days during the middle of the month were favorable for late blight and the disease was spreading. Serious are expected there since potatoes are 2 to 3 weeks late and practically none of the growers are equipped to spray or dust.

Late blight has not been found, so far, in any other state.

This statement summarizes the first seven reports of the National late blight warning service. As the season progresses reports from this office will be more frequent if the disease continues to develop.

CROP INSURANCE FIGURES REVISED FOR MARYLAND

Revised figures on the crop insurance program in Maryland show a total profit of premiums over indemnities of $9,559.55. This statement was made today by Dudley C. Aist, Administrative for the Production and Marketing Administration at College Park, who pointed out that earlier calculations had indicated that the program had cost more than the amount paid in by insured farmers.

Aist explained that the "profit" will be used toward the accumulations of reserves and he added that, under the law, these reserves must be accumulated until 1950. From that date on, the reserves and the yearly income from premiums must be sufficient to pay all losses.

Protection To Be Adjusted

Studies recently completed in Maryland have shown that 8,596 contracts for crop insurance were issued in the years from 1939 through 1946. During the same period, 1,866 losses were paid.

The studies have also shown that a large number of these losses occurred on farms which were "repeaters;" that is, they had losses year after year. It is now planned that the county ACA committees will adjust the cost of protection given those farms to meet the normal risk.

In 1946, losses occurred on about one out of every five farms. Most of the losses were brought about by heavy rains at harvest time.

Triple-A Roundtable

A series of radio roundtables bringing information to the farmer and consumer are being planned by the State Production and Marketing Administration in cooperation with members of the County ACP committees. The first of these is scheduled for April 29th at 12:30 p.m. over Station WFMD at Frederick. Other stations taking part at the present time are WJEJ, Hagerstown and WANN, Annapolis.

Elgin Moves Tag Deadline To May 28

Extension of the deadline for new automobile tags until May 28 was announced this week by W. Lee Elgin, commissioner of motor vehicles.

He made the announcement following notification from the Penitentiary, which manufactures the tags, that it would be unable to supply the balance of tags needed for at least fifteen more days."

May 28 also will be the deadline for commercial tags, as announced some weeks ago, the pleasure-car deadline having been selected to coincide with that date.

Mr. Elgin said application forms for these tags would be mailed out May 7 to owners of trucks and other commercial vehicles.

He reported sales of pleasure-car tags as brisk" at the Department of Motor Vehicles headquarters, Guilford avenue and Twenty-first street.

Through last Friday in the first 27 days of tag sales, 275,763 tags had been sold—161,031 by mail, 101,398 over the department's windows and 13,334 through county agents of the department.

This total compares with 207,-574 tags issued in the initial 27 days of sale last year when pleasure and commercial tags were sold simultaneously.

Usually set for March 31, the tag deadline this year was moved up to give time for revising the applications to conform with legislation passed by the 1947 General Assembly changing the fees charged.

Full-sized license plates are being issued generally this year for the first time in three years, and two are being issued for each vehicle. Last year and the year before only corner clips were sold to be attached to the single tags issued the preceding year.

FISH STUDY IN BAY PLANNED

In Maryland, co-operation with the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory at Solomons, several laboratories and manufacturers will engage in a joint study of marine products derived from Chesapeake Bay resources.

Promulgation of the plan of co-operative study, intended to benefit fishermen, processing plants and manufacturers, was made by the State's Department of Research and Education at Solomons.

The Chesapeake laboratory, named as co-ordinator in the study, is a unit in this department.

Theodore M. Miller, industrial chemist and commodity standards specialist for the Federal Government, has been named by the laboratory to co-ordinate the various phases of the project.

Expected to have wide implications, extending beyond the tidewater area, the plan calls for an informal agreement between participants and the laboratory.

The agreement provides for publication of any information obtained in the study with acknowledgements of contributions made by the participants.

Several fishermen, icing and filleting plants and packers already have agreed to study the details of converting waste materials into forms needed by potential users.

A number of laboratories and interested persons have acknowledged invitations to become participants and have indicated a desire to join in the study.

The Department of Research and Education has agreed to furnish samples of fish waste for experimental purposes in connection with the development of a market for these materials.

Originating out of economic researches of Maryland's fisheries, made by the laboratory, the co-operative study will attempt to convert the large unused potential source of waste materials into ultilizable items.

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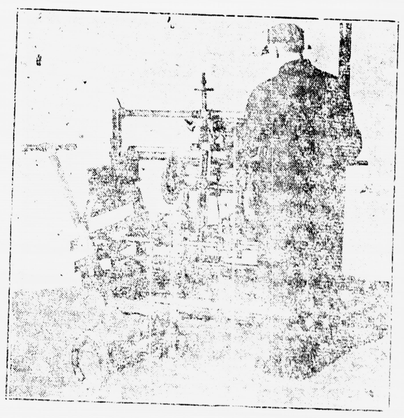
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Between May 1st and June 30th. Chesapeake Airways is offering one way and round trip fares at excursion rates between Salisbury and Baltimore via Easton. The rate provides for air transportation between airports and does not include ground transportation. Round trip tickets will be valid for 15 days between layovers. Everyday is now EXCURSION DAY.

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