

Tobacco Blue Mold Returns

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Tobacco blue mold was verified by Bob Anderson in a field near Ephrata on Aug. 6. The blue mold was sporulating which means other tobacco is susceptible to the airborne spores.

We would expect there are other infections in Pennsylvania grown tobacco, but they have not been noticed. The disease started last week.

What are we recommending now that we have blue mold in Pennsylvania? If your tobacco is topped or is ready to top, we are not recommending any sprays for blue mold control. If you find blue mold and the tobacco is near topping, top the tobacco. After tobacco is topped, blue mold infection is slowed.

We think topping somehow produces a natural change in the plant that makes it more resistant to blue mold. For tobacco that is not ready to top, we recommend that you start spraying with Acrobat MZ. Acrobat MZ has a special Section 18 label for use on Pennsylvania grown tobacco. Based upon the results in other tobacco growing states, this is the best labeled material to control blue mold at this time in the growing season.

Do not spray Ridomil foliar — it has no label for this type of application. If the blue mold is of the Ridomil insensitive type, Ridomil will not control the blue mold.

Thorough spray coverage is important to get results from the fungicide Acrobat MZ. A single T-jet nozzle is not enough. Hollow cone nozzles and multiple nozzles per row or the use of air blast sprayers directed so all of the leaves are covered is necessary. Increased pressure and water volume are also necessary.

If weather conditions favor blue mold (frequent rain, high humidity, dew, and fog), you should spray every 5 to 7 days. If the weather is not favorable for blue mold, the length between sprays can be longer than 5-7 days. A maximum of 4 applications can be made, but you should stop spraying 30 days before harvest (top-

ping stage or sooner).

The rate of Acrobat MZ application varies depending upon the size of the tobacco and the amount of water used when spraying. Look at the label for these rates and other information.

Since this is a special labeled product, you must obtain a Pennsylvania Section 18 Recordkeeping Form which must be returned

to the Pennsylvania Dept. of Agriculture 30 days after the last application. These forms should be available from the place you buy Acrobat MZ or you can get them from us.

Remember tobacco is a high income crop. Do not delay protecting your crop against blue mold. Blue mold not only reduces yield, but will reduce quality and

the price you receive for your tobacco.

Please call us if you need more information and let us know if you find blue mold in your tobacco. Contact Bob Anderson, Penn State Extension, Lancaster County, (717) 394-6851 or John O. Yocum, Southeastern Agricultural Research and Extension Center, (717) 653-4728.

Crop Field Day Sept. 18

CLARION (Clarion Co.) — A crop field day will be held at Long Acre Potato Farm, Clarion County, on Wednesday, Sept. 18.

The field day will featured many corn and soybean varieties, fertilizers, and herbicide plots. Equipment demonstration will include corn planter set up, chisel plows, and no till drill operation. Also included will be a demonstration of the farms CAT Chal-

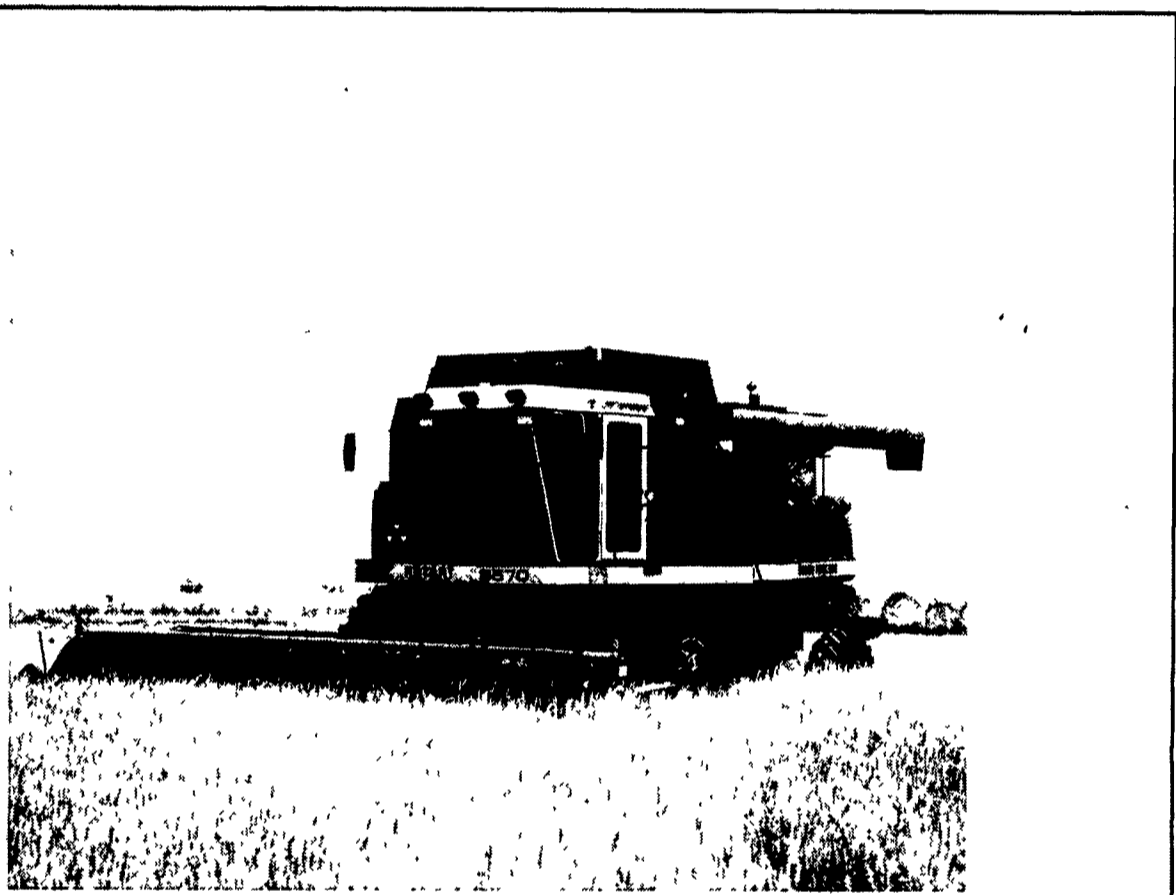
lenger tractor

Soil compaction will be shown through use of a soil pit and plots of the new Roundup ready soybeans and BT corn will be shown. A wagon tour will show conservation practices and storm water control, fuel tank storage, and general farm operation.

Lunch will be provided and pesticide credits will be given. Commercial sponsors will be on

hand to discuss new and current products for corn and soybeans in the region.

Additional information is available from William R. Wallace, Forest County Cooperative Extension, (814) 755-3544; Dave Fowler, Clarion County Cooperative Extension, (814) 226-4956; or Jeff Fowler, Venango County Cooperative Extension, (814) 437-7607.



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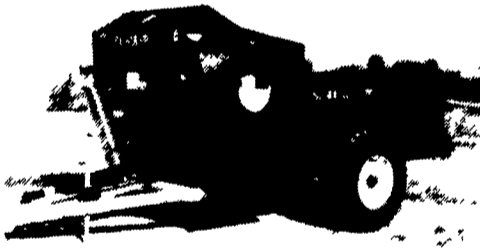
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