

# Current Information Letter

For the Information of County Extension Agents and Extension Workers Only  
AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION DIVISION—PAUL E. MILLER, DIRECTOR  
File for Future Reference—Complete Index Will Be Furnished Annually

JULY 17, 1941	UNIVERSITY FARM ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA	UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA DOCUMENTS No. 00011
---------------	----------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------

FILE UNDER: FARM CROPS -- Farm Crops Diseases

OCT 4 1976  
ST. PAUL CAMPUS LIBRARIES

Prevalent Diseases of Tomatoes, Potatoes and Melons -- R. C. Rose, extension plant pathologist.

The diseases discussed below are now showing and on account of humid weather threaten to be quite serious. County extension agents are urged to be on the lookout for other diseases and pests and to report them promptly.

### Early Blight and Late Blight of Tomato

These leaf spots develop best in moist weather. Both diseases cause defoliation of plants which may lead to sunscald of fruit later.

Control---Spray or dust at intervals of 10 days or 2 weeks. For spraying, use 2 pounds red oxide of copper, 4 pounds of flour to 100 gallons of water. If dust is used, mix 6 pounds red oxide of copper, 10 pounds of flour and 100 pounds of talc. Ten pounds of tribasic copper may be substituted for the red oxide of copper if the latter is used. Ready mixed dusts are now sold on the market.

### Anthracoese on Melons

Very common on watermelon and often on muskmelons; angular black spots on leaves and elongated black spots with light colored centers on stems and fruit. Small fruit often killed and turn black and drop off. Older fruits have dark sunken spots. Soft rot usually follows.

Control---Spray with bordeaux mixture 4-2-50 or yellow copper oxide 4 pounds to 100 gallons of water.

Dusting with a copper dust is preferable to spraying and requires less labor. Use a dust containing 6 pounds red copper oxide, 10 pounds of flour and 100 pounds of talc, or 10 pounds tribasic copper, 10 pounds of flour and 100 pounds of talc. These ready-made mixtures are on the market and sold under the name of melon dust.

### Late Blight of Potato

Gardeners and potato growers should take precautions now against this disease. Once it starts, it works so fast that the leaves are killed in 2 days and rot in tubers is almost sure to follow. On the leaves, late blight causes water soaked spots which quickly merge and cause the leaves to turn brown or black and dry up. The weather has been favorable for blight.

Control---Start spraying now with bordeaux mixture 4-2-50 and apply thoroughly at weekly intervals.

If dust is preferred to wet sprays, use tribasic potato dust without poison or red oxide of copper dust. These are sold on the market ready mixed.