

Long Island Horticulture Research & Extension Center– Riverhead, NY

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The focus of this project is to aid growers on the East End of Long Island in managing late blight of tomatoes and potatoes. Organic farms are being scouted on a weekly basis and inspected to find first symptoms of late blight and later how well it is being managed. Photos and samples are also brought back to the lab for confirmation and diagnosis of the disease. While assessing farms for late blight, symptoms of other diseases are also studied and taken back to the lab for diagnosis. Another part of this project includes the use of two spore traps at two different locations. The spore traps are changed once a week with the goal of trying to capture late blight spores. Lastly, this project involves the use of the Late Blight Decision Support System or DSS. DSS takes fungicide applications and determines the best times for the next applications to be done based on weather, fungicide used, and variety susceptibility. Late blight resistant varieties are being grown at some of the farms being scouted and evaluated in a replicated experiment at LIHREC. The research and data analysis will show how growers on Long Island can better control outbreaks of late blight.