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My research project is aimed at helping growers on the east end of Long Island better manage late blight. The first part of the project involves scouting local farms on a weekly basis. Tomato and potato fields are inspected for symptoms of late blight, and if detected, the next step is to monitor how well it is being managed. Photos and samples are also taken back to the lab for confirmation of diagnosis. While looking for symptoms of late blight, symptoms of other diseases are noted, and samples are also taken back to the lab. The second part of this project utilizes the Late Blight Decision Support System (DSS). Fungicide applications are recorded, and the system helps to determine when the next application should be made, based on the forecasted weather. I then refer to the information generated by the DSS to help me create a chart that goes in a weekly newsletter that is sent to local growers. This chart offers recommendations to growers that do not utilize the DSS.

