Potato Late Blight, Naerstad model

FACTSHEET

Potato late blight can cause severe damage to the potato crop and tubers

Potato late blight is caused by Phytophthora infestans, a fungus-like microorganism that causes the most devastating disease of potato. It spreads rapidly in the canopy, and can also infect tubers. Protective fungicide treatments are needed to protect the crop when conditions for infection are favourable.

Control with help of DSS on platform.ipmdecisions.net

The model predicts if there are favourable conditions for spore production and the following conditions for spread, survival and infection of these spores. The model produces an infection risk, where a value of 2.5 is the threshold where a warning is issued.
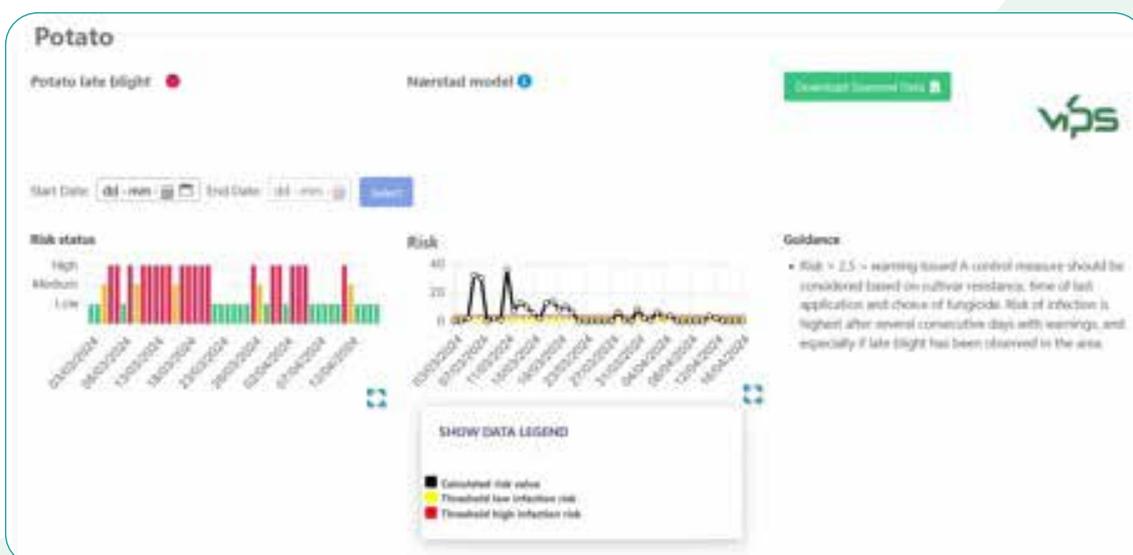
DSS parameters

The model uses temperature, humidity, precipitation, wind, radiation, leaf wetness and vapor pressure deficit as input parameters. Assuming spores of potato late blight are present..

DSS output

The DSS shows information about the risk of infection for potato. The risk output: *Risk > 2,5 = warning issued*. A control measure should be considered based on cultivar resistance, time of last application and choice of fungicide. Risk of infection is highest after several consecutive days with warnings, and especially if late blight has been observed in the area.

Where can DSS be used

The DSS was developed by NIBIO in Norway. Reference: Hjelkrem et al. 2021. For other countries it is important to first test in practice before using the DSS for decision support in the control of potato late blight.

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