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## **SPORE TRAPS AND PATTERN OF DISPERSAL OF *CERCOSPORA BETICOLA* CONIDIA IN SUGARBEET FIELDS**

### Abstract

*Cercospora beticola* is the most damaging foliar pathogen of sugarbeet. Information on the time of primary discharge and dispersal of *Cercospora* conidia, the progressive increase in conidial population, and the eventual exhaustion of conidia dispersal can be useful in managing *Cercospora* leaf spot in sugarbeet. Spore traps were installed in four sugarbeet fields in 2002, and two sugarbeet fields in 2003. Conidia were trapped on 645 mm<sup>2</sup> of a microscope slide that was covered with petroleum jelly, and on sticky-tape in a 7-day volumetric spore trap. The slides and tapes were replaced weekly and examined microscopically to determine the number of spores trapped per week. In 2002, highest number of conidia were trapped in late August to mid-September, which corresponded to the time that *Cercospora* leaf spot was most prevalent in the sugarbeet fields. Locations that had higher number of conidia had more severe disease. Data for 2003 will also be presented with graphics of the spore traps.

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