Purple Top and Beet Leafhopper



See also: http://www.potatoes.com/research.cfm

Foliar Symptoms



Leaves of infected plants turn purple and curl. Infected plants may die early.





Nodes swell and turn purplish, and axial buds elongate.



Aerial tubers may form on the stems.

Causal Agent

Name: Columbia Basin Purple Top Phytoplasma (a.k.a. BLTVA)

Transmitted by: Beet leafhopper (see reverse of this card)

Hosts: Beet leafhopper, various weeds, potatoes, tomatoes,

various vegetables

Other info: Disease is transmitted mostly in early season.

Washington State Potato Commission

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Leafhopper Identification on Yellow Sticky Traps

Beet Leafhopper Comes in Two Color Forms



Light-colored form of beet leafhopper

Darker form of beet leafhopper



Sometimes beet leafhoppers on sticky traps may be damaged or missing wings.

Beet leafhopper = *Circulifer tenellus*

Other Leafhoppers, Which Do Not Transmit Purple Top



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Trapping suggestions:

- **1.** Use 3X5" or 4X6" yellow sticky card traps.
- **2.** Place traps near potato fields, among weeds, away from dusty roads.

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- **3.** Mount cards about 3-4" above ground.
- **4.** Check traps regularly, replace at least weekly.
- 5. May and June are the most important months.



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