**Quarterly report for the NW Potato Research Consortium**

**Title:** Maintenance of late blight of potato forecasts.

**Funded PIs:**

David Linnard Wheeler ([david.wheeler@wsu.edu](mailto:david.wheeler@wsu.edu); 215-880-3024), Carrie Wohleb ([cwohleb@wsu.edu](mailto:cwohleb@wsu.edu) ; 509-707-3510), and Tim Waters ([twaters@wsu.edu](mailto:twaters@wsu.edu); 509-545-3511)

**Objectives:**

1. Produce late blight forecasts and recommendations
2. Inspect and collect samples from fields with reports of late blight.
3. Confirm late blight presence with diagnostics and, if necessary, genetic testing.

**Progress:**

Objective 1 is in progress. As in previous years, forecasts are produced weekly. Each forecast is posted on our [project site](https://d-linnard.github.io/LateBlight/) and shared by Dr. Wohleb via WSU’s Potato Alerts.

Objective 2 has not yet commenced since late blight has not yet been reported. Dr. Wheeler is also investigating other methods to detect late blight before explicit reports from stakeholders. For example, Google search data has been investigated to determine if stakeholders are searching for symptoms or diagnostic information before they report the disease.

Objective 3 has also not yet commenced. Since late blight has not yet been reported, diagnostics have not yet begun.

There are no foreseeable problems with generating forecasts and recommendations (objective 1). However, if late blight is not reported, we will not be able to inspect fields, collect samples (objective 2), or confirm late blight presence with diagnostics (objective 3).