

## MEMO

To: Agents in Tobacco Growing Counties

From: Paul Denton  
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Re: [Blue Mold Found in Pennsylvania](#)

Well, it seems that just as I was reassuring everyone in an email that there was no blue mold in the US, blue mold was being identified in a float plant bed in eastern Pennsylvania. The North American Plant Disease Forecast Center is reporting the discovery as of late last Friday, in Chester County, PA. Sporulation was occurring, and it was estimated that infection occurred during the last week in May.

As of now, it does not appear that this is a major threat to tobacco in Tennessee and Kentucky. It is strange, however, that blue mold would be found in Pennsylvania and not be present anywhere to the south or west of the location. Unless it overwintered in a greenhouse, the spores had to blow in from somewhere, or carried in as transplants from another region. I do not have any information about the origin of the transplants, but either way it would indicate that there is likely blue mold somewhere else in the US that hasn't been identified yet.

For right now, we need to be watching our fields and greenhouses for any signs of infection, and paying close attention to forecasts of spore movement. We need to maintain a good control program with Mancozeb on plants remaining in float beds and greenhouses, and destroy greenhouse and float bed plants as soon as they are no longer needed for the field. If blue mold threatens, recommendations for control can be found in the [Kentucky and Tennessee Tobacco Production Guide, PB 1782](#).

I will pass along more information as I receive it.