

MEMO

To: Agents in Tobacco Growing Counties

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Re: [Blue Mold in Central Kentucky](#)

Last Thursday, July 16, several fields with active blue mold were found in east central Kentucky. The fields were found along the Clark-Montgomery county line, just east of Lexington. They had more than 30%-infected plants, which were actively sporulating. Lesions were estimated to be 10 days to 2 weeks old, indicating infection in the first week of July.

The North American Plant Disease Forecast Center notes that in the past few weeks there have been potential transport events from this area, which have moved toward most of the tobacco growing regions of the US. In addition, in Tennessee, we have the earlier outbreak identified in Greene County. So all Tennessee producers should be checking their fields for blue mold, and eastern Tennessee producers in particular need to be paying close attention. I am not recommending preventive sprays as of yet. However, producers who are observing target spot in their fields may want to consider more strongly an application of Quadris, which will provide blue mold protection as well as target spot protection.

Blue mold was also found last week in a flue-cured field in eastern Virginia. This infection is unlikely to affect Tennessee, but it provides more evidence that blue mold is present at low levels at numerous places in the eastern part of the US tobacco growing area, and all producers need to be on the lookout for it.