

Use Of The Propane Flamer To Control Insect Pests Of Potatoes

Guy Bernard
Pest Management

NB Agriculture, Fisheries and Aquaculture

During the 80s and early 90s, conventional potato producers in NB and elsewhere faced grave challenges arising from the fact that the Colorado Potato Beetle had become resistant to a wide array of chemicals that were used to control it. Cocktails of chemicals were used for a while and provided a brief respite, but it soon became obvious that a new approach to control this pest was urgently required.

One of the solutions that we investigated was the use of the propane flamer. This presentation will cover the description of the device, the way it was used, the experimental protocol, and the results obtained. The general conclusion of the project was that the use of the propane flamer in one pass properly timed in the spring achieved the following results:

- * 80% control of Adult Colorado Potato Beetles
- * 80% control of egg masses/ subsequent larvae
- * 80% control of flea beetles
- * Little damage to the plant with a single pass
- * No decrease in yield / quality / maturity with a single pass

Corresponding author: guy.bernard@gnb.ca