Western New York has a long history of growing table beet for the canning industry, which is now consolidated to Seneca Foods Inc. This company produces a range of brands including Aunt Nellie’s and Libby’s.

The establishment of ‘LoveBeets USA’ has heralded a new era for the table beet industry in New York. The processing plant for this company is in Rochester and will produce a range of non-traditional table beet products, including bars, snack packs, and juices.

**Objective:**
Maximize the profitability and productivity of the table beet industry through a multidisciplinary, coordinated research and extension program

Projected growth in table beet production in New York Source: Democrat and Chronicle, Feb 7, 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Beet Statistics</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Purchase of NY beet roots</td>
<td>$2,000,000</td>
<td>Expected to double</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beet roots processed/day (lb)</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Foliar Health

Maintaining healthy table beet foliage is important for:

1. Enabling mechanical harvesting through ‘top-pulling’;
2. Ensuring fitness for fresh market sales; and

The most important foliar disease is Cercospora leaf spot caused by the fungus, *Cercospora beticola* (pictured below).

National and International Perspectives

Complementary research is ongoing to address the key questions central to improving the durability of foliar disease management recommendations:

- Genotypic variability of *Cercospora beticola*
  - Whole genome sequencing
- Inoculum sources
  - Soil
  - Alternative hosts – crop rotations
- Spatial and temporal attributes of epidemics
- Fungicide resistance management
  - Molecular basis of resistance
- Varietal susceptibility
- Emerging diseases
Root Health

The quality and quantity of table beet roots may be directly affected by diseases. These diseases are caused by a complex of soilborne fungi:

- Phoma betae;
- Pythium spp.,
- Aphanomyces, and
- Rhizoctonia solani.

Some of these fungi also affect the foliage.

Root disease priorities have recently been identified in collaboration with the Advisory Group and research projects are being planned.

Ensure the durability of integrated disease management strategies for the New York table beet industry through high quality research and excellent industry and grower engagement

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