

STRAWBERRY GROWER

NORTH CAROLINA STRAWBERRY ASSOCIATION

August 2017



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Did You Know About Pyloxin D?

By Madeline Dowling and Guido Schnabel,
Clemson University

Ever heard of Tom Brady? Love him or hate him, he has more Super Bowl MVP awards than any other football player in history. However, you probably did not know about him in 2000 when he was drafted in the 6th round as a fourth-string quarterback. But it did not take him long to maximize his strengths, minimize his weaknesses, and successfully integrate into the team. By 2002, he led the Patriots to the first of 5 Super Bowl victories. Like a football team, fungicide players must be properly integrated into the team of products in a spray program for successful disease control to occur. Polyoxin D is a fairly new product with potential to contribute to effective resistance management, but understanding its strengths and





Strawberry Pre-Plant Meeting

August 17, 2017

Marion County Extension Office
206 Airport Ct. Suite C, Mullins, SC 29574
Sign-in at 11:30, Program Begins at 12:00

Topics will include:

- Current Production Practices – Dr. Powell Smith
- Insect Management Update – Dr. Rebecca Schmitt-Jeffris
- Disease Management Update – Dr. Guido Schnabel
- Risk Management – Heyward Baker

**Lunch will be provided at the beginning of the meeting.

**2 Pesticide recertification credits will be offered.

Should you require special accommodations due to a disability, please notify our office ten days prior to the event.

Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service offers its programs to people of all ages, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital or family status and is an equal opportunity employer.

NC Pre-Plant Meetings

Nash County | August 15, 2017

5:30pm (meal) 6:00pm (program)

Nash County Agricultural Center

1006 Eastern Avenue, Nashville, NC 27856

RSVP: By Friday, August 11 - (252)641-7815

Johnston County | August 29, 2017

6pm (meal) 6:30 (agenda)

Johnston County Center

2736 NC Highway 210, Smithfield, NC

RSVP: By Friday, August 25 - (919)989-5380



UPCOMING EVENTS

NASGA Summer Tour

August 15-16 + Minneapolis, MN

This highly educational tour will feature many great stops including Pine Tree Orchards 300+ acre farm, the agritourism focused Afton Apple Orchard, and over 1,200 acres of the manicured gardens, woods, and prairies of the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum.. www.nasga.org.

Pre-Plant Meetings (see above for details)

August 2017 + Various Locations

Southeast Strawberry Expo & Trade Show

November 1-3, 2017 + Wilmington, NC

Our annual meeting with educational breakout sessions, networking opportunities, and industry trade show will be held in Wilmington this year.

*To list an event please contact newsletters@ncstrawberry.com



Like us on Facebook to stay up to date on the most recent strawberry news and information!



www.facebook.com/ncstrawberry

Did You Know About Pyloxin D?

weaknesses is important to effectively “draft” it into a spray program.

Polyoxin D is a fungicide made by the bacteria *Streptomyces cacaoi*. It was first registered in 2009 and is available as OSO 5%SC (formerly Tavano) and Ph-D WDG. Its low toxicity earned it an EPA exemption from tolerance, which means that the Environmental Protection Agency does not test for polyoxin D residue on produce because any amount is considered safe. Polyoxin D also has low pre-harvest (0 hours) and re-entry (4 hours) intervals. The fungicide is registered for controlling diseases, particularly powdery mildew and gray mold (*Botrytis*), on several crops, including strawberries, raspberries, almonds, and grapes. In South Carolina and California field trials, it was as effective as captan against *Botrytis* on strawberry, though field trials in Florida showed inconsistent results. In University of Kentucky field trials, polyoxin D showed good efficacy against grape powdery mildew and *Botrytis* as well. Although the labels list other diseases as well, for strawberries it should strictly be considered a ‘Botryticide’.

Polyoxin D’s most exciting feature is its unique mode of action. It is a chitin synthase inhibitor and thus placed into FRAC group 19. New modes of action are critical for effective resistance management and disease control, particularly for *Botrytis* which develops resistance quickly. To return to the football analogy, fungicide programs must adapt or they don’t stand a chance against the rival fungus team. Restrictions on the number of applications, rotation of FRAC codes, mixtures, and introduction of new chemistries are all well-established tools to make fungicide programs sustainable and “competitive.” Rotating in polyoxin D allows the other chemistries to take a break by reducing their use.

So, what is the best way to add polyoxin D into next season’s spray program? First, be sure to use the right rate. Ph-D’s rate is fixed at 6.2 fl oz, but use OSO at the highest label rate (13 fl oz) for equivalent control. Second, we recommend that

Photo by Keith Ellison via Flickr



you use polyoxin D only when disease pressure is low (dry weather). Lastly, avoid spraying this product multiple times in a row or more than two to three times per season (although the label is a bit more generous), since our research shows that the fungus team can adapt quickly to polyoxin D. The populations we tested contained highly sensitive and reduced sensitive individuals (fungus isolates), which means the reduced sensitive ones can be selected for quickly. Now that you know its major strengths and weaknesses and how to integrate it into your team, consider “drafting” polyoxin D into your spray program for gray mold disease and resistance management. It might just be a champion like Tom Brady. ♦



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Strawberry Expo 2017: Tentative Agenda

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

7:30am-5:00pm	Registration Open - Foyer
10:00am-8:00pm	Farm Tour at Brunswick Berries, Holden Brothers Produce, D'Vine Foods – Dinner at Lu Mil Vineyard
7:30pm-9:30pm	Hospitality Room Open – Complimentary Refreshments and Snacks (3 rd Floor – Hospitality Room #331)

Thursday, November 2, 2017

7:30am-5:00pm	Registration Open – Foyer
7:30am-9:00am	Breakfast, Coffee/Juices – Grand Concourse/Azalea Room with Exhibitors (1 st Floor)
7:30am-9:00am	Exhibit Hall Open – Grand Concourse/Azalea Room (1 st Floor)
9:00am-10:00am	Welcome/General Session – Grand Ballroom / “ Grower Spotlight ” – Jaemor Farm, Jarl Echols, Alto, Georgia
10:00am-10:30am	Morning Break in Grand Concourse/Azalea Room with Exhibitors

Track	Production Magnolia (1 st Floor)	Marketing Carolina Room (Lobby Level)	Around the Farm Dogwood/Camellia (1st Floor)
10:30am-12:00pm Breakout Sessions	Breeding Program & Research Funding Gina Fernandez <i>Professor Dept. Hort. Sci., NCSU</i> Christie Almeyda <i>Director, Micropropagation & Repository Unit Dept. of Plant Pathology, NCSU</i> Penelope Perkins <i>Professor, Postharvest Physiologist Dept. Hort. Sci., NCSU</i> Katie Jennings <i>Assistant Professor, Vegetable & Small Fruit Weed Science Program Dept. Hort. Sci., NCSU</i>	Videos on Youtube and Facebook: Before and After the Posting Kyle Hensel <i>Director of Continuing Education, University of Georgia SBDC</i>	Strawberry Season Extension in Low & High Tunnels Dr. Sanjun Gu <i>Horticulture Extension Specialist, NCA&T</i> A Look Into Dual Season Harvest of Strawberry in North Carolina Joshua Mays <i>NCDA Regional agronomist</i> Companion Crops Taylor Williams Paige Burns Brad Thompson
12:15pm-1:45pm	LUNCH & NCSA Annual Meeting (Cape Fear Ballroom – 2 nd Floor): 1. Presentation of scholarship winners 2. NC Strawberry Association Annual business meeting 3. Awards		

Track	Production Magnolia (1 st Floor)	Disease Dogwood/Camellia (1 st Floor)	Around the Farm Carolina Room (Lobby Level)
2:00pm-3:15pm Breakout Session	Getting Started in Plasiculture James Kenan <i>Grower, Bernies Berries</i> Matt Rudd <i>Grower, Rudd Farm</i>	Round Table Discussion New problems seen in 2017 Panel of Growers for multiple regions (NC, SC, GA, VA)	OSHA – Compliance Standards James L. Washington <i>OSHA Safety Standards Officer, NC Dept. of Labor</i> <i>Occupational Safety & Health Division Education, Training and Technical Assistance Bureau</i>

3:15pm-3:30pm	Afternoon Break in Grand Concourse/Azalea Room with Exhibitors		
3:30pm-4:45pm Breakout Sessions	Plasticulture Workshop <i>continues</i> James Kenan <i>Grower, Bernies Berries</i> Matt Rudd <i>Grower, Rudd Farm</i>	Strawberry Disease Management Dr. Frank Louws <i>Director NSF Center for IPM, Professor Plant Pathology, NCSU</i> Guido Schnabel <i>Professor, Plant Pathology, Clemson University</i> Chuck Johnson <i>Professor, Extension Plant Pathology, Virginia Tech</i>	USDA - Labor Richard Blaylock <i>U.S. Department of Labor</i>
5:00pm-6:00pm	Social Hour and Live Auction to benefit Scholarship Fund Grand Concourse/Azalea Room with Exhibitors		
7:30pm-9:30pm	Hospitality Room Open - Complimentary Refreshments and Light Snacks (3 rd Floor – Hospitality Room #331)		

Friday, November 3, 2017			
7:30am-12:30pm	Registration Open - Foyer		
7:30am-9:00am	Breakfast, Coffee/Juices – Grand Concourse/Azalea Room with Exhibitors (1 st Floor)		
7:30am-9:00am	Exhibit Hall Open – Grand Concourse/Azalea Room (1 st Floor)		
9:00am-10:00am	General Session – Grand Ballroom (1 st Floor) / “ Grower Spotlight – Buckwheat Farm, Karma Lee, Apex, North Carolina”		
10:00-10:30am	Morning Break in Grand Concourse/Azalea Room with Exhibitors		
Track	Production Magnolia (1 st Floor)	Marketing Carolina Room (Lobby Level)	Around the Farm Dogwood/Camellia (1st Floor)
10:30-11:15am Breakout Sessions	Control of Aquatic Weeds in Irrigation Water Sources Robert J. Richardson <i>Professor & Extension Specialist Aquatic & Noncropland Weed Science Co-director NCSU Weed Science Program Crop & Soil Science Department NCSU</i>	Navigating Search Engines and Social Networks: What I really need to do to be found online Kyle Hensel <i>Director of Continuing Education, University of Georgia SBDC</i>	Crop Protection from Wildlife David Dycus <i>Salesman/Agronomist, FCI Ag</i> Integrating Pest & Pollinator Management Jeremy Slone <i>Department of Entomology & Plant Pathology, NCSU</i>
11:20-12:30pm Breakout Sessions	Introduction of the NCSU Strawberry Extension Program and Pre-plant Fumigant & Alternative Research Mark Hoffman <i>Department of Horticultural Science, Strawberry & Grape Extension Specialist, NCSU</i>	Navigating Search Engines and Social Networks: What I really need to do to be found online <i>continues</i> Kyle Hensel <i>Director of Continuing Education, University of Georgia SBDC</i>	Drone Technology - How could it benefit strawberry producers? Bobby Vick <i>Director of Business Development in Biological & Agricultural Engineering, PrecisionHawk</i>
12:30pm	Breakdown and Departure		

**Please note: pesticide recertification credits will be available for many sessions*



PSA Produce Safety Rule Growers Training

Date: Friday, November 3, 2017

Location: Southeast Strawberry Expo - Hilton Wilmington Riverside, 301 North Water Street, Wilmington, NC
Skinner Room (3rd Floor)

Time: 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM (*space is limited, registration required*)

PSA Grower Training Agenda

<https://ncfreshproducesafety.ces.ncsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/PSA-Grower-Training-Course-Agenda-REV-1-12-17.pdf?fw=no>

Register here

<http://www.cvent.com/events/produce-safety-rule-growers-training/event-summary-1cfb76ca778f49efaa8b2732dbb0aed4.aspx?fq=true>

Workshop registration fee:

\$100.00 for NC residents / \$150.00 for Out-of-State participants

The registration fee includes lunch, the Produce Safety Alliance manual and the certificate of participation. A GoldenLeaf Grant is supporting this training and offsetting the registration costs for a limited time. Payment can be made on the registration site via credit card or by check. For more details visit our website <http://ncstrawberry.com/psa-produce-safety-rule-growers-training>

2017 SOUTHEAST STRAWBERRY EXPO REGISTRATION & MEMBERSHIP FORM

❖ November 1-3, 2017 ❖ Register in advance to avoid \$25 penalty ❖

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name(s) (for name tags): _____

Farm/Business: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Farm/Work Phone: _____

Email: _____

Website: _____

Acres of strawberries grown in 2017: _____

I'd like my newsletters via: ☐ Email ☐ Mail

Bringing an item for the silent auction? Tell us here: _____

NCSA MEMBERSHIP

(good through November 2018 - you must be a member to attend expo)

TYPE	RATE	QUANTITY (one per farm)	TOTAL
In-State	\$100		\$
Out-of-State	\$170		\$
Student/Ext.	\$25		\$

HOST: HILTON WILMINGTON RIVERSIDE

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BOOK ONLINE: http://www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/I/ILMNCHF-STB-20171031/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Payment method: ☐ Check (payable to NCSA)

☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ Discover

Card #: _____ Exp: _____

Name on Card: _____

Please choose from the following expo events:

FULL CONFERENCE 11/2-11/3

(includes all breakout sessions, Tuesday lunch, all breaks)

TYPE	RATE	QUANTITY	TOTAL
First Registrant	\$150		\$
Additional Person	\$125		\$
Student/Ext	\$100		\$

FARM TOUR -WEDNESDAY, 11/1 (Full Day)

TYPE	RATE	QUANT.	TOTAL
On bus (lunch & dinner)	\$85		\$
Own car (dinner only)	\$70		\$
Child	\$35		\$

THURSDAY CONFERENCE 11/2 (Full Day)

(includes Thursday breakout sessions, lunch, and breaks)

TYPE	RATE	QUANTITY	TOTAL
First Registrant	\$100		\$
Additional Person	\$85		\$
Student/Ext	\$60		\$
Child	\$50		\$

FRIDAY CONFERENCE 11/3 (Half Day)

(includes Friday breakout sessions and break)

TYPE	RATE	QUANTITY	TOTAL
First Registrant	\$70		\$
Additional Person	\$60		\$
Student/Ext	\$40		\$

Interested in the Produce Safety Rule Growers Training on Friday, 11/3?

Registration for this event is handled through the Fresh Produce Task Force, information is listed at the bottom of the agenda on page 5.

Donation to Scholarship Fund: \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE: \$ _____

Please add totals from all columns

MAIL THIS FORM TO: NCSA, PO Box 543, Siler City, NC 27344 | EMAIL THIS FORM TO: info@ncstrawberry.com
More information at: www.ncstrawberry.com | 919-537-2287

Don't forget to sign up for:

NCSA Farm Tour 2017

Wednesday November 1, 10am-7:30pm



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**More details in September issue of
Strawberry Grower**



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August Growers Checklist

Preparing for Next Season

- ☐ Make key decisions about varieties and plant types for 2017 and order your plants. Don't wait until the last minute to order. Remember, tips need to arrive one month prior to planting.
- ☐ If raising your own plugs, be sure to order soil, trays, and fertilizer if growing tips.
- ☐ Stay in close contact with your plant supplier this summer and do not be afraid to ask for periodic reports updates on plant health.
- ☐ After soil testing, lime early in the summer to raise pH to 6.0 to 6.2. Incorporate lime when existing beds are broken down.
- ☐ Use overhead irrigation to soften soil as needed and subsoil completely.
- ☐ Get mist system set up by early August if growing your own tips.
- ☐ Stick tips by mid-to-late August, depending on location.
- ☐ For planting in mid-Sept (Western NC), apply preplant fertilizer in mid August.
- ☐ Make a fumigation plan, set a schedule, and acquire necessary materials. Be sure to allow appropriate plant-back intervals and an additional cushion in case of bad weather.
- ☐ Check out your fumigation rig and do any adjustments and repairs well in advance of fumigation.
- ☐ Renew respirator fit testing (must be current within one year of fumigation.)

Planning Your Plant Order

- ☐ Before making your plant order, critically evaluate the relative profitability of your different markets (U-pick, ready-pick, and/or off-farm). For example, if you are experiencing decline in U-Pick sales, this may be the time to scale back Chandler production.
- ☐ Diversify. A combination of varieties can give you more weeks of fruiting, and not so much fruit in just a short two-week period! If your crop was really late this year, consider growing some Sweet Charlie, an early ripening variety.
- ☐ Consider diversifying plant type. Fresh dugs can produce an earlier crop than plugs, and fruit size can be very impressive in the early season. You may also wish to experiment with California cut-off plants as another strategy for producing larger berries in the mid-season when Chandler plug berry size drops off.
- ☐ Avoid going with extra-early Chandler planting dates. If Chandler is producing more than 100 flowers per plant and small berries, your planting date is probably too early – consider a slightly later planting date. Also, early plantings have the undesirable effect of making the crop start later in the spring by 3-5 days, which might mean not being open on a critical weekend.
- ☐ Consider staggering your Chandler plug planting dates over a week's time, so that not all your crop peaks at the same time. Tobacco growers typically stagger planting dates because of harvest labor limitations – this same idea can be profitably applied by Chandler growers to manage extreme crop concentrations that can make it difficult to get fields cleanly picked even in good weather.
- ☐ Consider the potential water situation for the season ahead – plugs are far more efficient in water utilization than fresh dugs.



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Washington Strawberry Commission May Disband

Don Jenkins | Capital Press

OLYMPIA — Fittingly, no one from the strawberry industry came to a public hearing Tuesday at the Department of Agriculture on whether to disband the Washington Strawberry Commission.

The commission's chairman, Lacey berry grower Tim Spooner, said in a phone interview afterward that the hearing typified the lack of interest in the commission.

"It's just like when nobody shows up for the commission meetings," he said. "When you don't get participation and involvement, it's very tough."

The commission, which has four vacancies on its eight-member board, asked WSDA in April to terminate it and the half-cent per pound assessment paid by growers. The commission's revenue has dropped sharply in the past 15 years, along with the acres of strawberries planted in the state.

The commission in 2016 collected \$36,144 from 35 growers, less than one-third the amount raised 15 years ago. Over the same period, harvested strawberry acres have fallen to 900 acres from 1,800 acres, according to the USDA.

"A lot of it boils down to labor, labor costs," Spooner said. "Labor is getting scary at times."

The commission has never funded marketing, but it does fund research in Washington, Oregon and British Columbia. After administrative expenses, the commission has about \$20,000 to distribute, Spooner said.

The commission's part-time manager, Walter Swenson, said he isn't thrilled about the thought of taking another pay cut. "I don't think the industry is going to die, but I'm not sure of the need for the commission," he said.

WSDA Director Derek Sandison will decide whether to put the commission's proposal to disband to a binding vote by growers.

WSDA commodity commissions manager Teresa Norman said the department would like to help re-energize the commission. She said that she's concerned that some strawberry farmers aren't attuned to the benefits of a commission.

"It makes me wonder if they even know what a fine, functioning commission is really like," she said. "My worry is we're not really reaching everybody."

WSDA also has concerns about how the commission is managed. The commission approached WSDA last winter about making every board position at-large. The idea was to eliminate districts and make filling vacancies easier.

WSDA officials told the commission that it would first need to comply with a long list of state rules, such as holding at least two meetings a year and following state-approved bookkeeping procedures.

"I think it would take less than a week to comply with all the requirements," Norman said.

Spooner said the commission can get its business done in one meeting a year, and it's tough enough to get a quorum for one, let alone two meetings. He said WSDA does a "wonderful job" supporting commissions, but added that there are a lot of requirements put on volunteer board members.

"They make it pretty complicated now in running a commission," he said.

The breaking point, according to Swenson, came when the board dropped to four members — one fewer than demanded by state law.

Spooner said that he's been chairman for about 20 years and has tried in vain to get more grow-

Strawberry Commission

ers interested in the commission. He drafted his nephew, Puyallup farmer Sam Spooner, to fill one board position. Another board position is filled by WSDA's representative, Tobin Gilbert, who works in the department's plant protection division.

"We just don't get any interest. It dumbfounds me," Tim Spooner said.

He said he started viewing the commission as a "dying quail" a few years ago when growers badly defeated a proposal to raise the assessment to a penny per pound. Only a small minority even bothered to vote, he said.

"I was seeing where this thing was going," he said. ♦

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NOVEMBER 1-3, 2017

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Word ads (Buy & sell listings) are free to members for up to two issues.

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