



**HAMILTON
AGRONOMY**

One of the most important things we help grow is trust.

Words to grow by...

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Tolerance Seen in Colorado Potato Beetles

Hamilton Agronomist Matt Lyons has been monitoring Western Michigan potatoes throughout the growing season, watching nutrition levels, conducting petiole samples, and prescribing micronutrients supplementation as needed. One emerging worry has been the Colorado potato beetle, whose activity is somewhat changed, notes Lyons.

“There seems to be an increased tolerance among the Colorado potato beetles to the pesticide used at planting,” Lyons said. “The rise of tolerant beetles is probably linked to alfalfa rotations, with first-generation beetles coming through on volunteer alfalfa. Remember that traditional pesticides are still effective, just a bit less so,” said Lyons. To safeguard their future use, he urged growers to take a look at rotation practices. Lyons added, “Rotate to fields just a little further from the fields where potatoes were grown this season.”



Apple Moths, Maggots May Call for More Aggressive Spray Program

Hamilton Agronomists are keeping an eye out for apple maggots and codling moths in apples, the two biggest potential pest problems at this point in the season. Traps are out, and Agronomists continue to monitor populations carefully.

While a gamut of options exists to help prevent the pests' infestation, producers who find moths and maggots this close to harvest have no chemical control option. Still, Hamilton Agronomists encourage growers to continue careful monitoring of moths and maggots.

Understanding infestation levels through the entire season is critical to implementing the best possible control in future seasons. In addition, heavy infestation of moths and maggots could indicate a concern with the grower's spray schedule. Talk with your Hamilton Agronomist today to determine best management



Ed Raak consults Hamilton Agronomist Creela Hamlin about tree health in his orchard south of Holland, MI.

options for your orchard.

Start Early When Establishing New Vineyard Site

USDA reports that Michigan's grape harvest will be down substantially this year compared with 2009. But while spring frost damage may have limited yield, local winemakers expect one of the highest-quality harvests in years.

Solid growth in the state's wine grape sector has prompted many growers to consider adding a few additional acres. Hamilton Agronomist Kevin Herman says, “Preparation of a proposed vineyard site should begin the year before planting.” He says it all starts with soil analysis at the site. “Soil pH, liming and fertilizer requirements are critical. If soil pH is below 5.5, apply limestone to raise the pH. Optimal pH levels should be 5.5 to 6.8. Consider deep plowing the lime into the ground in highly acidic soils.” Contact Herman for additional information on establishing new vineyard sites.

Growers Turn to Rely®

Available since 2007, Rely® herbicide now makes sense for use in area blueberries. Local growers are finding that the herbicide, though more costly, is easier on plants. "It's not systemic so there's no long-term crop injury risk like you'd get from glyphosate," said Hamilton Agronomist Ryan Wysocki. Another smart herbicide practice is fall application, which allows producers to catch winter annuals as they emerge in the fall. For the best plan and best products, consult your Hamilton Agronomist, who can help identify a weed control solution.

Rely® herbicide is a registered trademark of Bayer CropScience.

Schedule Soil Sampling

Schedule soil sampling on your acres to fully understand nutrient levels and prepare for optimum plant health next growing season. Take samples yourself, or put your Hamilton Agronomist on the job. Either way, you'll know your results, plot next steps, and have Hamilton Agronomy back applying any necessary nutrients within about 10 days.

Foliar Calcium Supported Best Hot-Weather Blueberries



For some Michigan blueberry growers, the 2010 crop won't be remembered with fondness. Hot weather taxed plants, caused everything to ripen at once, and contributed to soft fruit. That said, it was a season of pay-off for avid plant nutrition watchers, notes Hamilton Agronomist Ryan Wysocki. "I think the people that applied foliar calcium were in a little better shape. A foliar

calcium application increases your cell wall strength, and improves the rigidity of the berry," Wysocki said. "It's really important to ground apply and foliar apply calcium as part of a program." A window from September to November will be best for soil application of calcium since soil will be at its most depleted, and will allow for the best readings upon which to base nutrient recommendations.

Plan to Control White Mold in Snap Beans

White mold is becoming more of an issue in Michigan snap beans, experts say. New York snap bean producers, hit hard by the disease in recent years, have suffered rejected truckloads and lower grades.

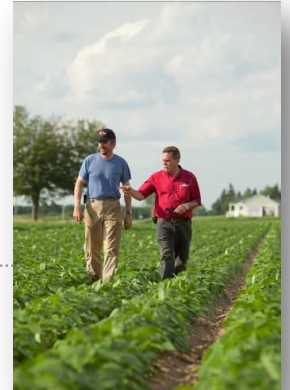
In Western Michigan, frequent rain and moisture in 2010 fostered conditions that clearly favor white mold.

Fungicidal control options include Omega® and Endura™. Hamilton Agronomist Matt Lyons notes, "Producers who applied a fungicidal control experienced fewer problems with white mold this season."

White mold fungus produces hard, black nuggets called sclerotia. Stalks and field debris harbor the dormant sclerotia until optimal environmental conditions occur. At that time, sclerotia develop trumpet-shaped, mushroom structures called apothecia, and the infection process begins anew.

If white mold challenged your 2010 snap beans, remain alert. Sclerotia can travel in debris on equipment to spread among fields. With potential impact to both yield and quality, it is one hitchhiker that is well worth preventing.

Omega® Fungicide is a registered trademark of Syngenta. Endura™ fungicide is a registered trademark of BASF.



Hamilton Agronomist Matt Lyons scouts snap beans near Kalkaska with producer Bruce Cotton.



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