

**New York State Berry Growers' Association funding report
Cox Program at Geneva
3-18-09**

Summary

This report highlights the research conducted by the berry pathology program at Geneva, that was supported solely by startup funding and that provided by the New York Berry Growers Association.

Project Progress

Blueberry anthracnose management: A demo trial of materials for blueberry anthracnose management was conducted at brown's berry patch. The intent was to look at the contribution of latent infection in a planting with a history of an anthracnose. Unfortunately, conditions were not favorable for disease in 2008. However, pre-harvest applications of Pristine fungicide, Switch, and even Prophyt reduced the incidence of postharvest rots compared to untreated controls.

Strawberry cover cropping to reduce soilborne diseases: A study at Iron Kettle Farms was conducted with the producer and Molly Shaw. In this experiment, different mustard cover crops were planted prior strawberries for varying numbers of year. Soils were collected and planted to potted strawberries in the greenhouse to evaluate how cover crop rotations affected the presence of soilborne pathogens. Unfortunately, despite flooding and other stresses, we could not kill the plant with pathogens from any of the soils. However, preliminary data suggests that fruit were less likely to rot from anthracnose and botrytis when in contact with soils from mustard rotations.

Currant cane dieback: Studies were conducted in the Hudson Valley and Connecticut (for compliance to pesticide registrations) to manage currant cane dieback. We found that early-spring pruning and sanitation was more important than delayed dormant applications of sulfur and copper, or applications of Pristine or Switch in season. However, the delayed dormant applications did reduce the level cane death caused by the disease. Small acreage currant growers are going to be more capable of managing this disease.

Future Efforts

Mummyberry and anthracnose management trial: At Terry Perfetti's Fruit Farm, we (Terry, Molly Shaw, and I) plan to conduct a trial in the 2009 season using newer fungicide chemistries to manage both mummyberry and anthracnose in a single program, and better refine fungicide application timings for both diseases.