Potato early blight – updates on availability of new fungicides

Luna Tranquility (Bayer), a pre-mix of fluopyram and pyrimethanil, is currently registered for use on potato in the U.S. Fluopyram is a new fungicide in the carboxamide or FRAC Group 7 category and pyrimethanil is in the anilino pyrimidine (AP) or FRAC Group 9 category. In our trials at the Hancock Agricultural Research Station in WI, we had excellent results with programs including Luna Tranquility in 2010 for control of early blight control. The Luna Tranquility label includes suppressive activity for potato on white mold, black dot, and Rhizoctonia.

While Luna Tranquility is registered for potatoes in Wisconsin at this time, the availability of the material is limited. The 2012 production season is the first full season with this label and supplies are limited. As I understand, Bayer representatives have moved some material around to distributors to satisfy grower requests here in Wisconsin.

Vertisan (DuPont Crop Protection), penthiopyrad, recently received registration on potato. Penthiopyrad is a new fungicide in the carboxamide or FRAC Group 7 category. In our Hancock trial, we had similar early blight control with Quash, Luna Tranquility, Quadris Top, and Vertisan in 2011.

While Vertisan is registered for potatoes in Wisconsin at this time, the material is not being marketed this year due to availability issues. Fontelis, the vegetable version of penthiopyrad, is being sold this season – but does not have potato on the label.