



The Growers Corner



Grower: Will Maxwell
Company: Maxwell & Suber Farms, Quincy, FL
Specialty: Field Tomato

Maxwell & Suber is located in Quincy, Florida. My partner, Stewart Suber, and I have been growing tomato for 30 years in the area. We normally grow 50 to 60 acres each season, and bacterial spot is a constant concern, especially in the fall.

We found out about AgriPhage in 2004. During the fall season, we were hit with 4 hurricanes. Bacterial pressure was high, and the plants got beaten up with the wind and rain. We started using AgriPhage in rotation with copper during that time, and felt like we had pretty good control, based on the circumstances.

In Spring 2005, we decided to use AgriPhage as a preventive. We gave OmniLytics our planting schedule, and they shipped us out the product we needed each week. We sent them plant samples every 2 or 3 weeks. If anything changed in the bacteria, they sent us a new formula in the next weekly shipment.

One of the key benefits that AgriPhage has is that it is natural and safe to the plants. Copper is pretty harsh on our plants, and can reduce yield by stunting growth and knocking off blooms. In the Spring season, we didn't use any copper at all, and in the fall, we only used it twice, due to some hurricane pressure. AgriPhage can't damage the plants, so when bacterial pressure was heavy, we went out with a higher rate, or went out a couple times each week, instead of the standard once per week, and maintained control of the bacteria.

We are a founding member of the Gadsden County Tomato Growers Association. There are a number of growers in the association that are now using AgriPhage, and have been satisfied with AgriPhage as another alternative for controlling bacterial spot.

Cordially,

Will Maxwell
Maxwell & Suber Farms
President, Gadsden County Tomato Growers Association

