

**Viability of *Aureobasidium pullulans* (Botector) after passage through field sprayer equipment, 2016.**

The viability of *Aureobasidium pullulans* (formulated as Botector) after passage through field sprayer equipment was evaluated in the spring of 2016. A stock solution of Botector, at a rate of 3.9 grams/4 gal water, was mixed in a bucket. A 250 ul aliquot was plated onto potato dextrose agar (PDA) after a  $1 \times 10^{4 \text{ to } 6}$  dilution. Half of the stock solution was poured into a low-pressure Stihl pump style backpack sprayer reserved only for biologicals, then sprayed into another bucket before being plated in the same way on PDA. The rest of the solution was poured into a hydraulic handgun sprayer and sprayed into a separate bucket at approximately 100 psi before planting on PDA. The high-pressure sprayer was one typically used for fungicide trials and triple rinsed as normally done between treatments. A total of 4 plates from each treatment were incubated for 5 days at ambient room temperature. The number of colony forming units (CFU) that appeared on the plates was evaluated daily.

*Aureobasidium pullulans* CFU were first observed 2 days after plating. The number of *A. pullulans* CFU from the high-pressure sprayer was higher than the stock solution on day 2 but lower on days 3, 4 and 5. The *A. pullulans* CFU on day 3 were significant lower (Tukey's HSD  $p > 0.05$ ) after passage through the high-pressure sprayer than CFU from the stock solution or after passage through the backpack sprayer. More testing is necessary before firm conclusions can be made.

