

Preventing Powdery Mildew on Grapes with a Sustainable Tank Mix



Tank mixing Regalia biological fungicide with a strobilurin enhanced efficacy.

INTEGRATED CROP MANAGEMENT PRACTICES give growers alternatives to fight diseases that are increasingly resistant to synthetic products alone. With a unified approach that combines biological solutions in tank mixes with conventional chemistries, growers are realizing longer residual activity and significantly improved crop protection.

Specifically, wine grape growers face the threat of powdery mildew, which can drastically reduce fruit production and, ultimately, eat away at profits. Unfortunately, trusted formulations for preventing powdery mildew are becoming less effective.

“Powdery mildew is a disease with the largest spread in the coastal regions, particularly in Napa Valley where land is exposed to an influx of fog from San Francisco during peak growing season,” says Jenna Combs, NorCal territory manager at Marrone Bio Innovations (MBI).

Growers needed an alternative to defend wine grapes from destructive powdery mildew. So, MBI began testing various biological formulas, tank mixing them with traditional chemistries—the BioUnite solution.

“The key is to harness biology and pair it with conventional chemistries to expand a grower’s overall sustainability,” says Combs, emphasizing the critical importance of adopting sustainable operations so growers can thrive in an evolving marketplace and meet consumer demand.

THE BIOUNITE ADVANTAGE IN GRAPES

MBI combined its Regalia® fungicide with a strobilurin. The idea was to test chemistries that are commonly used in tank mixes with biological solutions, such as Regalia, to find out if the unified mix would address growers’ greatest concerns.

By partnering Regalia in a BioUnite strategy with strobilurins, growers can effectively fight powdery mildew. “It turns on plants’ ability to naturally fight disease, while also increasing overall plant health,” Combs explains.

Also, growers who add Regalia in a tank mix with copper can maximize its benefits. And, by enhancing a tank mix of Regalia and a strobilurin with a peroxyacetic acid product such as Jet-Ag®, growers can get a 1, 2, 3 punch to prevent and fight powdery mildew on grapes at a low input cost.

BIOLOGY + CHEMISTRY = SUSTAINABILITY



Uniting biology and chemistry gives grape growers better control over a widespread disease.

Regalia is a staple for integrated pest management (IPM) programs, and when growers adopt a BioUnite strategy that integrates biology and chemistry, they will achieve better yield and improved harvest quality. Regalia triggers both Induced Systemic Resistance (ISR) and Systemic Acquired Resistance (SAR) responses. These modes of action stimulate a plant’s innate ability to fight disease.

“Regalia adds to the level of sustainability within a grower’s operation,” Combs notes. “By harnessing biology and mixing it with chemistries that we have been overusing, the BioUnite strategy brings power back to the chemistries.”



The BioUnite concept takes the guesswork out of combining biological products with conventional chemistries, providing prescriptions for how to use both in an IPM program.