

Farmer-Researcher: Angie Koch, Fertile Ground CSA, Waterloo County

Research Question: *Do foliar sprays benefit the health of different cash crops?*

There is anecdotal evidence that foliar sprays reduce disease and help control pests, leading to healthier plants and tastier crops.

Angie will:

- Take photos throughout the project
- Keep in contact with EFAO with updates and questions
- Establish and conduct experiment as outlined in Protocol below
- Turn in data by October, 2016
- Complete farmer-led research program training and surveys
- Present at the Farmer-led Research Meeting in Kingston, November 29-30
- Maintain current membership in EFAO

EFAO will:

- Monitor progress of project
- Conduct training program
- Help set up Research Protocol, write and publish Protocol
- Reimburse cost of field help, if necessary
- Help analyze data, write and publish Research Report
- Provide \$500 payment to farmer at conclusion of project
- Reimburse one night's hotel stay for the Farmer-led Research Meeting in Kingston, November 29-30

Research Protocol & Data Collection

- Establish crops in beds and try to maintain uniformity in management across beds.
 - Record planting date and crop arrangement in beds.
- Measure 15' sections along beds and flag the sections that will receive foliar spray (treatment; red), according to map on page 2.
- On weekly field walk and whenever noticeable, record observations and take photos of both spray (treatment) and no-spray control plots that document:
 - Disease onset,
 - Pest density,
 - Size or weight of vegetable/fruit
 - Etc.

Take Brix measurements of randomly selected vegetables from both spray (treatment) and no-spray control sections, maintaining consistency in measurement time.

- Special note to Angie: Remember to mark last bed!

Experimental Design - PAGE 2

With support from:







Contact:

Sarah Hargreaves, sarah@efao.ca, cell (226) 582-0626

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Experimental Design

Legend

-  Buffer - no measurements taken
-  Foliar spray; flagged section
-  No spray control
-  # Primary beds: spray according to map

Beds 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12 may be sprayed if timing of planting works such that drift into **primary** beds is not a concern.

