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Crop Consultant View of Biologicals

At Potato Expo 2022, Jonathan Adamson of Vive Crop Protection hosted a discussion with Crop Consultant Joe Hill from Baker City, Oregon about using biologicals in crop production.

Here are a few highlights of that discussion, quoting Joe Hill:

Consistency: Not long ago, biologicals were often seen as snake oil. Some products worked well one year, and then didn't work the next. It was hard to quantify why they sometimes got results and sometimes they didn't. Now, lots of companies are doing research and the consistency and reliability of biologicals has vastly improved. "If I'm recommending a product to my growers, I have to know in my heart that it's going to perform for that grower and that it's going to have an ROI. If you spend \$20 and get \$20 of ROI, it's not worth it."

Consumer perception: "Our consumers perceive that biologicals are a lot safer than the traditional chemistry we use. Whether they are or aren't, that can be debated at another time. But that's what our consumers want, so let's go with it."

Using biologicals in combination with chemistry: "One of the things growers ask is, when biologicals are mixed with chemistry, how do we know we're not "killing the bugs?" So that's where I was interested to see AZterknot, a pre-mix of azoxystrobin and Reynoutria extract come in. Nearly everyone in the industry uses azoxystrobin, it's one of our workhorses. It's a good product, but it's got a few holes and Reynoutria extract is a biological that fills in a few other holes and we know that as we move along, we need to be mixing modes of action. Why not introduce a biological instead of going after more hard chemistry, especially when our consumers are driving us that direction?"

AZterknot fungicide: "We tried AZterknot with a few growers last year, and they actually think there's something there, just like I do. We'll expand acreage as we learn more about the product but last year, in a terrible drought, we saw more greening with AZterknot, less rotten tubers, and an increase in specific gravity. We're always searching for ways to bring a little bit more back to the grower, and AZterknot will be one of the things we continue to look at."

WHAT IS AZTERKNOT FUNGICIDE?

AZterknot is the first fungicide that harnesses the power of a biological with the trusted performance of chemistry and the ease of the Allosperse® Delivery System.

- Systemic, broad-spectrum control of yield-robbing diseases
- Excellent choice for resistance management (Group 11 and group P5)
- Activates the plant's natural defenses
- Improves plant health and decreases plant stress
- Improves quality and yield
- Allosperse enables this chemical + biological combination with no clogging, no stress, and no added equipment

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Joe Hill, Joe Hill Consulting
Baker City, Oregon

For more information on AZterknot fungicide, [click here](#)