**SAM: Sustainable Anthracnose Management for Watermelon and Cucumber Growers in the Eastern U.S**

**Meeting Minutes-** February 24, 2025

**Personnel attended** – Dr. David Langston, Dr. Doug Higgins, Dr. Anthony Keinath, Dr. Bhabesh Dutta, Dr. Sarah Pethybrige, Dr. Gary Vallad, Olga Khmelnitsky, Dr. Marin Brewer, Rob Last, Alyssa Betts, Lina Quesada, Dr. Pamela Roberts, Dr. Amanda McVay.

**The meeting was led by Dr. David Langston**

**PD Dutta** mentioned that trials in Florida will start in April, and it will be later in late May and early June.

**PI Langston** shared a list of conventional fungicides to be used in Fungicide screening trials year 2.

Grad student Olga mentioned that they will add Bravo to treatment list for fungicide trial in New York in 2025. Although it was not in the list in 2024.

**PI Langston** revisited the rate for all the conventional fungicides. He shared the presentation with the SCRI-SAM team as well after the meeting. All the Co-PI and PI agreed on the list and have a consensus for the treatments. The list of conventional fungicide treatment and rates are listed below:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Treatment** | **Conventional Fungicides (Watermelon)**  | **Rate** |
| 1 | Bravo | 2.0 pt |
| 2 | Manzate | 2.4 qts/3.0 lbs. Use max rates |
| 3 | Topsin 4.5F | 10.0 fl oz |
| 4 | Cabrio | 16.0 oz |
| 5 | Tebuzol 3.6F | 8.0 fl oz (drop in NC pickling cukes) |
| 6 | Rhyme | 7.0 fl oz (drop in NC pickling cukes) |
| 7 | Proline | 5.7 fl oz |
| 8 | Cevya | 5.0 fl oz (drop in NC pickling cukes) |
| 9 | Miravis Prime | 11.4 fl oz |
| 10 | Switch | 14.0 oz |
| 11 | Untreated |  |

Hunter Collins from North Carolina mentioned that they can only do a total of 9 treatments due to space constraints. Based on the discussion, they will leave out Cevya, Rhyme, and Tebuzol (Will confirm this later again based on space).

**PI Langston** also mentioned that Bravo performed well last year so recommended to be included in the list this year.

**Olga** mentioned that NY is repeating the organic fungicides trials this year with same treatments list from last year.

**PI Langston** also updated the table for all the trials that have been done in all the states in 2024 and also updated the list of trials to be doe in each state in 2025. PI and Co-PI from all states provided the information and the table is updated and shared with everyone.

**PI Langston** revisited the standard inoculation procedures for fungicide trials, the details have been shared with the team already. And he mentioned to inoculate after the 1st fungicide treatment for the trials.

In cucumbers, the fungicide application needs to be little early since it is shorter crop, 1st fungicide application needs to be 2-3 weeks after transplanting.

**Co-PI Vallad** mentioned regarding the amount of inoculum load based on number of plants. They inoculated one plant in the center, and it worked well.

**Co-PI Higgins** used Black Diamond as a susceptible check last year in 2024 and they will stay consistent with this variety this year in 2025. **Co-PI Vallad** (FL) used Sugar Baby and Olga mentioned they also used Sugar baby for watermelon fungicide trials in NY.

**Hunter Collins** (From **PI Quesada** lab) mentioned they used a different susceptible variety (pickling) in North Carolina.

The team discussed on publishing results from their trials together, specifically for conventional watermelon trials. Graduate students will share equal contributions in papers in conventional watermelon trial, since many states are involved in contributing their trial results. Multi-author for conventional slicing cucumber (FL, GA) and split-offs by each program for organic and pickling cucumbers.