

Using Pageant Intrinsic Fungicide to Obtain Plant Health Benefits

by Paul Pilon



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Pageant fungicide has quickly become an industry standard for controlling a wide range of plant pathogens. In addition to its efficacy as a fungicide, Pageant has proven to provide a number of 'Plant Health Benefits'. Last year it received EPA approval to list 'plant health' on the product's label. With the addition of plant health on the label, the original Pageant fungicide was rebranded and is currently marketed as Pageant Intrinsic fungicide. Pageant Intrinsic fungicide is the exact same product, containing the same active ingredients; the only changes are its name and the new product label.

Since the release of the new name and label, there has been a lot of attention regarding these new benefits and product labeling including articles in trade publications, distribution of marketing materials, and even a travelling road show to educate growers of these attributes. So what are the new 'plant health benefits' that Pageant Intrinsic fungicide provides and how can growers benefit and utilize this fungicide to improve or maximize plant health.

This is the first of a series of articles that will address using Pageant Intrinsic fungicide for plant health purposes. Over the past four years, I have been involved in a number of demonstrational and replicated studies looking at using Pageant Intrinsic fungicide to obtain various 'plant health' benefits. Throughout this series, I will share details from several of these studies and provide insights on where and when growers can use Pageant Intrinsic fungicide to achieve the best results.

Before looking at the research results, it is important to lay down the foundation regarding what exactly are 'plant health benefits' and how Pageant Intrinsic is providing them. The active ingredient pyraclostrobin (one of two active ingredients in Pageant Intrinsic fungicide) has been found to affect many plant processes on a cellular level. The short description is that pyraclostrobin reduces the respiration rate in plants which allows there to be more energy for other necessary plant processes. This extra energy and improved physiological activity increases a plant's tolerance to various stresses and allows them to develop better root systems in many instances.

This description greatly over simplifies how pyraclostrobin affects many of the physiological processes within a plant, but does provide a practical and easy to understand explanation growers can relate with. The bottom line for growers is Pageant Intrinsic fungicide is not only an excellent tool for controlling a wide variety of plant pathogens, it can now be used in certain situations to help decrease the consequence of various stresses.



Poinsettia 'Early Prestige Red'

Compared to untreated plants (left) cuttings sprayed with Pageant Intrinsic fungicide (right) developed more roots and had better leaf expansion. The treated plants were sprayed once with Pageant Intrinsic fungicide using the rate of 4.0 oz per 100 gallons; the treatment was applied three days after the cuttings were direct stuck into the 4-inch containers. The image was taking 39 days after the application was made.

Pageant Intrinsic fungicide has been shown to increase a plants ability to tolerate stresses from cold, drought, and shipping to name a few. Additionally, plants treated with Pageant during propagation tend to root slightly faster and develop more roots than untreated plants. In upcoming articles, I will share specific trial results from my research where I evaluated 'plant health benefits' obtained from Pageant Intrinsic fungicide.

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