Romeo CA Biofungicide Now Available in California for Control of Foliar Fungal Diseases in Grapes, Almonds, Leafy Greens and Cucurbits

Preventive biofungicide boosts plants' disease response to help them fight back against future fungal attacks

Van Wert, Ohio – (October 6, 2022) – Agrauxine by Lesaffre announces that Romeo CA biofungicide is now registered and approved by the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (CDPR) for use in grapes, almonds, leafy greens and cucurbit crops in California for control of key foliar fungal diseases including powdery mildew, downy mildew, and *monilinia spp*-linked diseases.

"As a preventive biofungicide, Romeo CA works just like a vaccine by introducing plants to a simulated pathogenic fungus and boosting their internal responses," said Jason Ellsworth, Organic Portfolio Manager for Wilbur-Ellis. "As a result, Romeo CA helps the plant set up natural defense mechanisms and strengthens the plant so it can withstand future fungal attacks."

Created from the non-living, yeast-based active ingredient, Cerevisane®, Romeo CA signals plants to produce compounds to stimulate the plant's natural response and activate induced systemic resistance (ISR) to control various plant pathogens. This not only triggers plants' natural defenses to prevent the onset of disease but also strengthens the plant by increasing the concentration of disease-fighting antimicrobial compounds for seven to ten days.

This reliable biofungicide is OMRI-approved for organic production and delivers results that compete with conventional solutions when included in an integrated pest management (IPM) program. In fact, research on grapes demonstrates that adding Romeo CA to the rotation enhances conventional fungicide programs, achieving similar levels of disease incidence and severity compared to a chemical-only program (Figures 1a and 1b).

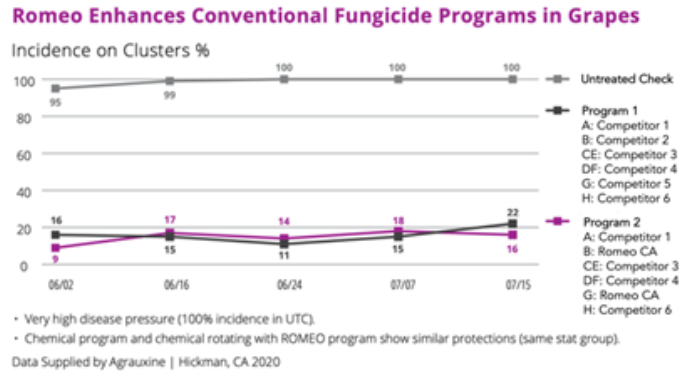

Figure 1a: Disease incidence on clusters.

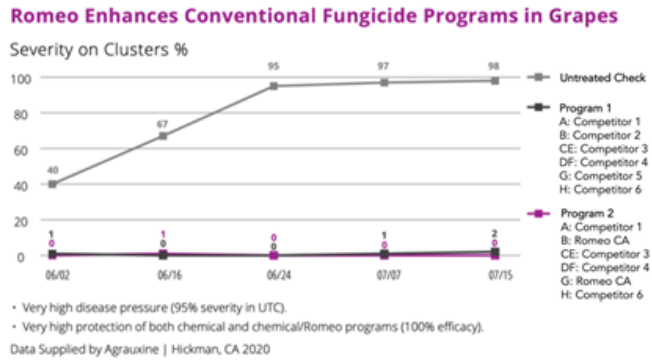

Figure 1b: Disease severity on clusters.

Another study in almonds demonstrated that Romeo CA improves the efficacy of conventional programs, showing fewer strikes per tree affected by blossom blight at 40 days following the third fungicide application (Figure 2).

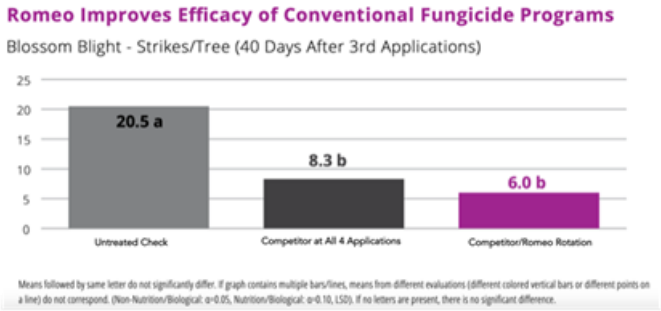

Figure 2: Blossom blight strikes per tree at 40 days following third application.

Romeo CA can be applied as the sole fungicide in your IPM program, or as part of a fungicide rotation. It also has a low application rate, a long shelf life, no residue and is tank mix compatible with many other products. Since Romeo CA is preventive in nature, it must be applied before disease symptoms are observed.

"The recent CDPR approval of Romeo CA gives California almond, grape, leafy green, and cucurbit growers another tool for preventing foliar fungal disease in their crops," said Ronan Kempf, Head of Global Marketing and Development for Agrauxine by Lesaffre. "We're thrilled that California growers can now take advantage of this powerful biofungicide as part of their IPM rotations."

To learn more about Romeo CA, contact your local Wilbur-Ellis pest control advisor or stop by the Agrauxine Booth #1324 at the Annual CAPCA Conference & Agri Expo on October 9-11 in Anaheim, California.

For more information about Agrauxine or its portfolio of biologicals, visit www.agrauxine.us.

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About Agrauxine by Lesaffre

Agrauxine is a key technical and industrial player in biocontrol, biostimulation and bionutrition. Structured in 2014, Agrauxine is the business unit of Lesaffre dedicated to biosolutions for crop production. Agrauxine develops, manufactures and commercializes solutions of biocontrol, biostimulation and bionutrition, based on microorganisms or their derivatives. Today, the company has more than 100 employees in three continents (North America, South America and Europe), more than a quarter of whom are focused on research and technical development. Agrauxine is commercially present in more than 40 countries.

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