



MANAGE RESISTANCE *Now*

Brian Rideout

Apple Producer at Manitree
Fruit Farms, Blenheim ON



Three things I've learned about managing resistance first-hand

Brian Rideout shared his experience and on-farm practices fighting disease and fungicide resistance in his orchard [here](#). After years of managing resistance, Manage Resistance Now asked Brian to share what he's learned to help fellow growers. Brian shares the top three things he's learned about resistance management and encourages other growers to talk about their own experiences too.

It took Brian Rideout nearly two years to figure out how to manage fungicide resistance. As an Ontario tender fruit and apple grower, Rideout initially discovered powdery mildew Group 3 fungicide resistance in his orchard more than 10 years ago. Since then, he's implemented Best Management Practices (BMPs) like rotating modes of action to preserve crop protection tools so they can be effective when he needs them the most.

"We also started researching more about plant health, trying to find what was causing the diseases we were trying to control," says Rideout, explaining that, expanding his awareness of plant health and understanding how a disease attacks a plant has helped him make more informed management decisions, like selecting fungicide products.

Rideout shares three things he's learned along his resistance-management journey to help fellow growers troubleshoot pest resistance and source tools and information for their own farms.

1 TEST IT BEFORE YOU TRY IT

"I don't just broadly accept that a product is going to work on a disease or pest, I try it out in small areas and see if the results compare to what my standard is as a grower," says Rideout.

He's learned first-hand that resistance is real and can be expensive. That's why he has implemented a testing process for introducing new products into his orchard. If there's a problem to be addressed with a crop protection product, Rideout conducts test areas by mixing and applying a small amount of product. "This allows us to adapt a technology in a gentler way without making as big a mistake, or have as much of a financial impact," he explains. Once a product has proven to be effective, he will broaden the use across the farm where it is needed.

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be most effective."**

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2 ROTATION WORKS

When it comes to managing resistance with rotation, Rideout doesn’t just mean crop rotation. He’s talking about rotating technology and modes of action.

“Only use products where they will be most effective,” reminds Rideout, noting that even if a label says you can use a product six times, don’t. Mix up applications by looking for other tools or chemistries that will deliver similar results, so you don’t build resistance by using the same product or mode of action too often. Rideout also reminds growers to lean on their Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program for support.

He says it’s important not to overuse the products you may need to rely on when economic thresholds get out of hand. “Keep the strongest tools available for when you need them.”

3 SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCE

“What we need to understand is that a grower’s experience with resistance is different for everyone,” says Rideout. “If you’re the first one in your area with a resistance issue, don’t keep it a secret. Share it with your neighbours and share your experience dealing with it. We can all learn from each other.”



Rideout notes the importance of being proactive about resistance issues, and sharing what works or doesn’t on one farm could help other growers on their farms.

Working together as an industry to address pest resistance is essential. Rideout also notes that learning from each other, industry experts, and consulting a trusted agronomist or advisor are all helpful tools for addressing resistance issues.

“We’re stronger together, and we’ll be a much better industry when we work together to manage resistance.”

[ManageResistanceNow.ca](https://www.ManageResistanceNow.ca) is a great online resource for growers too. The website includes a variety of factsheets, grower profiles, expert advice, videos and BMPs tips.

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For more information, visit [ManageResistanceNow.ca](https://www.ManageResistanceNow.ca)

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