

Biopesticides Role in Organic Weed Control

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Abstract

Surveys of organic growers indicate that weed control is the number one cost of organic production. Conventional grower surveys are inhibited from transitioning to organic production due to the cost and difficulty of weed control. As such there is an unmet need in the market for companies to discover and develop more effective and cost effective alternatives for weed control in organic production. Marrone Bio Innovations (MBI) was founded with one of its core focus areas discovering, developing and marketing natural products for weed control. After entering and exiting the market with products based on essential oils, MBI embarked on discovery and in-licensing of novel microorganisms and plant extracts that produce natural compounds with novel modes of action that control weeds. This talk will discuss MBI's herbicide discovery and development process and also three products in MBI's pipeline, Opportune (tm) (MBI 005) cellulose biosynthesis inhibitor, MBI 011 burndown herbicide and MBI 010 systemic herbicide. These products have potential for both organic and conventional production. The speaker will also provide an overview of the biopesticide market and the drivers behind double digit growth of biopesticides and the intense interest by large agrichemical companies and growers in this fast growing sector.