23rd Annual Conference
The Next IPM Toolbox: Finding Tomorrow's Solutions
November 3, 2026
Victoria Park East Golf Club, Guelph

Full Program and Abstracts: www.ontariopmc.ca/program

AGENDA

MORNING SESSION – Moderator: Jason Lemay, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness

8:30 am **Registration, Poster setup**

9:00 am **Welcome and opening remarks: Kristy Grigg-McGuffin**, Chair, OPMC

9:05 am **PLENARY PRESENTATION 1: From dusts to data: The evolution of pesticides in Canada. Josh Mosiondz**, Provincial Minor Use Coordinator, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness

9:30 am Transmission of grapevine red blotch virus by *Stictocephala bisonia*. **Peggy Mantel**, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (Student–GO1)

9:45 am **PLENARY PRESENTATION 2: Novel digital approaches to accelerate the discovery and development of crop protection innovations. Ravi Ramachandran**, Head of Research & Development, Crop Protection, Syngenta Canada

10:30 am **Refreshments and Poster Viewing**

11:00 am Do larval density-based thresholds predict economic risk from true armyworm in modern wheat varieties? **Natasha Weppler**, University of Guelph-Ridgetown (Student–GO2)

11:15 am Functional characterization of BnWRKY40 in canola defence against *Verticillium longisporum*. **Tetiana Borysenko**, Wilfrid Laurier University (Student–GO3)

11:30 am CAPS and RPA-based approaches for differentiating *Neopestalotiopsis* species affecting strawberry production. **Alia Voss**, University of Guelph (Student–GO4)

11:45 am Entomopathogenic nematodes and fungi as biological control agents for plum curculio (*Conotrachelus nenuphar*). **Sydney Rack**, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (Student–GO5)

12:00 pm **LUNCH**

AFTERNOON SESSION – Moderator: Brian Aukema, University of Guelph

1:00 pm Integrated weed management: Where are we coming from and where are we going now? **François Tardif**, University of Guelph (Regular–RO1)

1:15 pm **PLENARY PRESENTATION 3: Development over discovery: Protecting crops with a shrinking active ingredient toolbox. Doug Baumann**, Chief Technology Officer, Vive Crop Protection Inc.

2:00 pm Migiwa 20SC - A novel fungicide for Canadian pome fruit growers. Current successes and future opportunities. **Wesley Cook**, Belchim Canada (Regular–RO2)

2:15 pm Heliothine nudiviruses in public sequence databases: A survey. **Emrah Ozel** (Regular–RO3)

2:30 pm **Refreshment Break and Poster Viewing**

3:00 pm **PLENARY PRESENTATION 4: RNAi technology: Experience and opportunities for crop protection in agriculture. Wayne Barton,** Development & Tech Services Consultant, GreenLight Biosciences Inc.

3:45 pm **Presentation of Student Competition Award Winners –** Crop Life Canada and OPMC

3:55 pm **Closing Remarks and Adjourn - Kristy Grigg-McGuffin**, OPMC Chair

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

-Graduate Student Poster Competition-

GP1 Detection of *Cryphonectria* hypoviruses and novel hypoviruses in *Cryphonectria parasitica*, the causal agent of chestnut blight in American chestnuts. **Nicole Tabujara**, University of Guelph/Agriculture and Food Laboratory

GP2 Mixture of cover crops to manage plant-parasitic nematodes in Ontario carrot production. **Syed Naqvi**, Brock University

GP3 Scents and sensibilities: Assessing the attraction of *Coleomegilla maculata* to Solanaceae plant volatiles for conservation biological control. **Chloe El Hani**, University of Guelph

GP4 Evaluation of synthetic plant semiochemicals for Colorado potato beetle (*Leptinotarsa decemlineata*) management. **Natalie Savoia**, University of Guelph

GP5 Evaluation of imazamox for weed control in white beans and crop tolerance across four dry bean market classes. **Natalie Medland**, University of Guelph

-Undergraduate Student Poster Competition-

UP1 A winsome strategy: surveying the abundance and distribution of the winsome fly, *Istocheta aldrichi*, in southern Ontario. **Grace Varrasso**, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness

UP2 A blooming nightmare: Managing thrips (Thysanoptera) in Ontario nectarine orchards. **Olivia Brain**, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

UP3 Evaluation of nematicides for management of beech leaf disease in nursery-grown European beech (*Fagus sylvatica*). **Raylene Colautti**, University of Guelph/OMAFA

-Regular Posters-

RP1 Do cover crops suppress plant-parasitic nematodes in potato? A metabarcoding-based IPM assessment. **Syed Naqvi**, Brock University

RP2 Efficacy of a native entomopathogenic nematode (*Steinernema* sp.) isolated from an Ontario orchard against an insect pest. **Ana Borrego-Benjumea**, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

RP3 Optimized Na-Mg-chlorophyllin-based formulation enhances photodynamic control of anthracnose and reduces phytotoxicity. **Karthika Sriskantharajah**, University of Guelph

STUDENT COMPETITION JUDGING PANEL

Oral: Katie Goldenhar, OMAFA; John Purdy, Abacus Consulting Services; Lynn Van Maanen, University of Guelph; Tasha Wright, BASF Agricultural Solutions Canada. **Poster:** Travis Cranmer, OMAFA; Cheryl Trueman, Syngenta Canada; Sophie Krolikowski, AAFC; Amanda Tracey, OMAFA

OPMC ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness (OMAFA): Kristy Grigg-McGuffin (Chair), Melanie Filotas, Sean Westerveld, Cesar Cappa; **University of Guelph (U of G):** Rachel Riddle, Jocelyn Smith; **Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC):** Justin Renkema; **Valent Canada:** Julie Schipper; **Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association (OFVGA):** Chris Duyvelshoff; **Ontario Ginseng Growers Association**: Amy Shi

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge that we are gathered today in Guelph, on lands that have long been cared for by Indigenous Peoples, including the Attiwonderonk and the Haudenosaunee. This land is held as treaty territory with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, lies adjacent to the Haldimand Tract, and forms part of a long-established traditional hunting ground for the Six Nations of the Grand River. We also recognize the many First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples who call Guelph home today.

In pest management, we often speak of stewardship, balance, and working within complex ecosystems. As we begin this conference, may we take a moment to reflect on the generations of knowledge and care that have shaped this landscape, and on our own responsibility to leave it healthy and productive for those who follow.

CONFERENCE SPONSORS

The OPMC would also like to gratefully acknowledge additional support from the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness.

POST CONFERENCE FEEDBACK SURVEY

Thank you for attending the 2026 OPMC. Please take a few minutes to complete a post-event survey. Your feedback is important in organizing future events. To complete the survey, visit https://forms.gle/ocbgHZ54nJM3Wt7i6 or scan the QR code below.

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