

## **Abstract**

With the cancellation of postharvest use of iprodione in 1996, development of integrated programs and evaluation of new postharvest fungicides were needed for management of brown rot, gray mold, and Rhizopus rot of stone fruit crops. In comparative studies, fludioxonil (228 g/378 L) was an excellent wound- protection agent when peach, nectarine, plum, or cherry fruit were wound-inoculated with spores, incubated, and then treated. Control of all three decays was either equal to or better than iprodione and incidence values often were near zero. When fruit were inoculated after fungicide application, the efficacy of fludioxonil generally was reduced or ineffective using nectarine, peach, or plum fruit, but not with cherry fruit. Postharvest treatments with fludioxonil were also very effective in reducing decay of naturally field- infected fruit. Fludioxonil is rated as a "reduced risk" fungicide by EPA, it was placed in the IR-4 program, and it was granted an emergency registration on nectarines, peaches, and plums in 1998. The Novartis product will set a new standard in efficacy and safety as a treatment for postharvest decay control.