

Wednesday, November 30, 2022

To: Dr. Frank J. Louws
Department Head
Horticultural Science, NC State University

Dear Dr. Louws,

Thanks for the opportunity to collaborate with you on the proposal titled: "Exploring local carbon sources and cover crops used for anaerobic soil disinfestation for management of soilborne pathogens of tomatoes in NC, USA". We would be happy to cooperate with half of an acre to conduct experiments according to grower standard practices and the other half of the acre will be produced by incorporating the winter cover crop using the reverse tiller, laying plastic, and saturating the field with water to induce anaerobic conditions until the planting day to manage Verticillium wilt in tomatoes.

Leatherwood & Sons Farm is a family-owned vegetable production farm produced for 40 years based in Canton, North Carolina. The farm produces a wide variety of vegetables (Mountain Fresh tomatoes, Roma tomatoes, sweet corn, bell pepper, baby bell pepper, mini-sweet pepper, onions, cabbage, and eggplant). In recent years, Verticillium wilt started to limit the production of tomatoes in our farm, forcing us to abandon the production in whole fields. The current fumigation treatments are getting more expensive and less effective. For that reason, we are very interested in alternative approaches to manage Verticillium wilt.

I look forward to working with you and I wish you the best in this application.

Sincerely



John and Lisa Leatherwood,
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