

Brief Backgrounder

Frank Louws

Frank Louws is professor of plant pathology at North Carolina State University. He joined the NCSU faculty in 1996. Prior to this position, he was a post-doctoral fellow at the Center for Microbial Ecology at the Michigan State University-Department of Energy Plant Research Laboratory, East Lansing, Mich.

Education and honors

He has an M.S. in plant pathology from the University of Guelph and a Ph.D. in plant pathology from Michigan State University. He attended Dordt College in Sioux Center, Iowa, before earning his B.S. degree in horticulture at the University of Guelph. Honors during his career have included: American Society for Horticultural Sciences Outstanding Extension Paper Award; Outstanding Service Award from North Carolina Strawberry Growers Association; and service as Senior Editor of *Phytopathology*.

Research, extension and teaching focus

Dr. Louws develops extension and research programs emphasizing integrated pest management and sustainable agricultural principles and practices for growers of small fruits and vegetables. His work addresses production agriculture questions combined with fundamental biological questions. His extension programs address key industry disease problems in strawberry, pepper, tomato, greenhouse vegetable production and organic production. He has taught courses in plant pathology methods and diagnosis, field plant pathology, alternative research strategies for sustainable farming systems and organic farming systems.

Research funding

His research has been funded primarily through competitive grants. He also has received support from grower associations, grants-in-aid and other commodity-related support.

Recent scholarly publications

- Rivard, C.L. and F.J. Louws. 2008. Grafting to manage soilborne diseases in heirloom tomato production. *HortScience* 43: 2104-2111.
- Sydorovych, O., C.D. Safley, R.M. Welker, L.M. Ferguson, D.M. Monks, K. Jennings, J. Driver and F.J. Louws. 2008. Economic Evaluation of Methyl Bromide Alternatives for the Production of Tomatoes in North Carolina. *HortTechnology* 18: 705-713.
- Abad, Z.G., Abad, J.A., Coffey, M.D., Oudemans, P.V., Man in 't Veld, W.A., de Gruyter, H., Cunnington, J. and Louws, F.J. 2008. *Phytophthora bisheria* sp. nov., a new species identified in isolates from Rosaceae raspberry, rose and strawberry in three continents. *Mycologia* 100: 99-110.

Website at North Carolina State University

<http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/plantpath/people/faculty/louws/>