

# New Fungicide to Treat Pine Seedling Diseases

**A**uburn University School of Forestry and Wildlife Science Professor Scott Enebak and research fellow Tom Starkey recently spearheaded the registration of a fungicide that could revolutionize the forest nursery industry. The fungicide is Proline, a compound commonly used to control soybean rust.

Through lab experiments, Enebak and Starkey showed that Proline not only controls fusiform rust — one of the most

costly diseases in loblolly pine — but is also effective for two other diseases that affect pine seedlings: pitch canker and rhizoctonia foliar blight. “Proline’s effectiveness in controlling pitch canker and rhizoctonia foliar blight is particularly exciting because rhizoctonia was only partially controlled with the only available treatment, and there was absolutely nothing to help growers if their seedlings got pitch canker,” says Enebak.

Previously, only one compound was available to control fusiform rust. When that compound came under review from the EPA, Enebak and Starkey worked with the manufacturer and EPA to keep the compound available for forest nurseries while they searched for an alternative.

“With Proline’s labeling for use in forest nurseries, growers now have access to one of the most effective tools the industry has ever seen,” says Enebak. 