

SONIA WALKER



BACKGROUND:

I grew up near Minerva, Ohio with my parents and 3 siblings. We resided on a small farm where we raised hogs, grew field crops, and tended to the family vegetable garden and landscaping. After graduating from high school in 1997, I started college at the Ohio State University-Agricultural Technical Institute in Wooster where I completed an Associate of Science degree in Horticultural Science. During my time at Ohio State-ATI, I accepted a student position at the OARDC in the Extension Vegetable Lab where I obtained my first research experience. After finishing my associate's degree, I transferred to Purdue University to complete my B.S. in Horticulture Science. While at Purdue, I accepted a research assistant position in the Pomology Lab of the Horticulture and Landscape Architecture Department. In addition to my duties as research assistant, I took on an independent research

project in the lab studying the hydraulic conductivity of apple rootstocks.

After graduating from college in 2002, my husband and I returned to the Minerva area where we are trying to get the family beef and grain farm up and running. At the same time, I accepted a summer job working on an organic vegetable transition study at the OARDC. At the end of the summer, I moved into other research-related responsibilities such as sensory evaluations, preparing for future studies, and writing research publications in the Extension Vegetable Lab. In the spring of 2003, I accepted my current position as the technician of the Peri-urban project, a study looking at organic vegetable transition strategies. The Peri-urban project is studying the risks and rewards of four transition methods: hay, fallow, field vegetable production, and high tunnel vegetable production. As part of my responsibilities, I work for the Extension Vegetable and Weed labs in addition to coordinating other labs' activities that are involved with the study.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS:

Wszelaki, A.L., S.D. Walker, C.P. Steiner and S.A. Miller 2003. Evaluation of alternatives for the control of foliar and fruit diseases of organic processing tomatoes, 2002. Biological and Cultural Tests for Control of Plant Diseases (online). Report 18:PT008. DOI:10.1094/BC18. The American Phytopathological Society, St. Paul, MN.

Wszelaki, A., J. Delwiche, S. Walker, R. Liggett, and M. Kleinhenz 2004. Sensory Quality and Mineral and Glycoalkaloid Concentrations in Organically and Conventionally Grown Redskin Potatoes (*Solanum tuberosum*). Journal of the Science of Food and Agriculture (in review).