

Ronald Valentin, Biological Control Specialist
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Ronald Valentin was born in the heart of the greenhouse industry in the Netherlands. His family owned a greenhouse operation and his father started using biological control in 1971. At a very young age Ronald developed an interest for the "bugs" and as a teenager he was managing and producing the biological control agents for the family greenhouse operation. After finishing his education in crop protection management, biochemistry and vegetable production he embarked on a career in biological control in 1986. After working in biological control technical support in the Netherlands and several other European countries, he came to Canada for his first visit in 1996. After traveling to Canada once every 6 to 7 weeks in 1996 and 1997 he immigrated to Canada in December 1997. In March 2004 he became a Canadian Citizen. Until January 2003, Ronald was Technical Business Manager for an international operating Biological Control producer. In that position he managed and trained a team of 7 Biological Systems Specialists, working in BC, Alberta, Ontario, Quebec and the Maritimes. From 2003 to 2006 he managed all production related management including production planning, H & R, purchasing and sales for a Floral Operation (potted plant operation) in the Niagara region, Ontario, Canada. This operation successfully implemented biological control strategies in all of their production facilities. In the summer of 2006 the opportunity came up for Ronald to return to his field of expertise and passion: Biological Control of greenhouse pests. He accepted a position as Technical support / IPM and Biological Control specialist with Biobest Canada Ltd., an international producer of Biological Control Agents as well as bumble bees for pollination with its head quarter in Westerlo, Belgium. The North American office and production facility is based in Leamington, Southern Ontario, Canada. In this capacity Ronald is helping growers in Canada and the USA to implement a biological control/IPM strategy that fits with their organization and crops they grow. The additional experience of working with biological control agents in floral crops is allowing him to help other growers better with this challenge. Ronald is very passionate about making an IPM and biological control approach work for each and every grower.