In collaboration with researchers at the University of Idaho, Chuck Brown of USDA/ARS Prosser, WA has been breeding populations of Sticky nightshade that will be used in rotation cropping to suppress Pale Cyst Nematode in Idaho. This quarantine pest was first found in 2006. After extensive use of chemicals all parties are hoping that the Sticky Nightshade non-chemical approach will work. Brown has been selecting populations with lower levels of prickles (which resemble those of roses but much larger). Success in achieving a no-prickles phenotype came from an interspecific hybrid with black nightshade. Sticky nightshade has also shown resistance to all root-knot nematodes in the Northwest.

Normal prickles on the left and absence of prickles in the interspecific hybrid on the right.