

# THE EMERALD CONFERENCE

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## The Search for Meaningful Mycotoxin Results

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**Abstract:** Mycotoxin testing is required in all states for cannabis and hemp products. Analytes tested for only include aflatoxins (B1/B2, G1/G2) as well as Ochratoxin A. The fail rates for this testing are orders of magnitude lower than for all other contaminant tests and are exceedingly rare. Why is this? We know that many cannabis and hemp flowers are failing screening tests for microbial organisms at high rates. In Colorado, in 2020, state published fail rates reveal over 15% of all flower, shake, and trim failed microbial testing (with confirmed mycotoxin producing organisms like candida and Aspergillus regularly detected). If microorganisms are present, shouldn't they be fighting each other by producing mycotoxins? Are we looking at the right mycotoxins or are all methods used in the marketplace not optimized? We present a new tool for the identification of mycotoxins, reveal the hit rate from a screening study performed in Colorado, and present next steps for industry and regulators to take positive steps towards risk reduction.