New Project

FV 341a

Asparagus; evaluation of spray treatments for control of purple spot (*Stemphylium vesicarium*) in a field crop

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Project Number:	FV 341a
Project Title:	Asparagus; evaluation of spray treatments for control of purple spot (*Stemphylium vesicarium*) in a field crop.
Project Leader:	Tim O'Neill
Contractor:	ADAS UK Ltd
Industry Representative:	Mr Philip Langley Sandfields Farms
Start Date:	1st July 2012
End Date:	31st January 2013
Project Cost (Total Project Cost):	£7,890 (£13,060)

Project Summary:

Stemphylium purple spot (*S. vesicarium*) on asparagus ferns often results in premature defoliation and can significantly reduce yields in subsequent seasons. In work on container-grown asparagus inoculated with spores of *S. vesicarium,* single sprays of Amistar Top (azoxystrobin + difenoconazole), Olympus (azoxystrobin + chlorothalonil), Plover (difenoconazole), Signum (boscalid + pyraclostrobin) and Switch (cyprodinil + fludioxonil) appeared to reduce the disease; various programmes using these products in different sequences gave significant reduction of purple spot in field trials (FV 341). However, there is no sound information on the relative efficacy of individual products in the field, or their efficacy when used at different stages of fern growth and/or disease pressure. The aim of this project is to compare the efficacy of five fungicide products each applied at two spray timings (early season and late season) in controlling Stemphylium purple spot on ferns. Additionally, the efficacy of a four-spray programme of Serenade ASO, and an alternating four-spray programme of Signum and Plover will be examined; all the products listed for testing are approved for use on asparagus.

Aims & Objectives:

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(i) Project aim(s):

To provide information on the efficacy of different fungicides for control of Stemphylium purple spot on asparagus ferns.

(ii) Project objective(s):

1) To determine under field conditions the relative efficacy of five fungicide products approved for use on asparagus;
2) To examine the effect of two spray timings (early and late season) of these products each applied as a sequence of two sprays;
3) To determine the efficacy of a 4-spray programme of Serenade ASO and a 4-spray programme of Signum in alternation with Plover.

Benefits to industry

- Increased knowledge in the relative efficacy of fungicides for control of Stemphylium purple spot on asparagus ferns.
- Information of the relative performance of different fungicides applied as 2-spray programmes early season compared with late season.

a. Information on the efficacy of a biofungicide, Serenade ASO, against Stemphylium purple spot.

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