



Horticultural  
Development  
Company

# New Project

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## **FV 346**

Desk Study for electrical weed  
control in Field Vegetables

**Project Number:** FV 346

**Title:** Desk Study for electrical weed control in Field Vegetables

**Start and end dates:** 1 November 2008 to 28 February 2009

**Project Leader:** Dr Mike Diprose, Spectrum-tec Ltd

**Project Co-ordinator:** TBA

**Location:** Spectrum-tec Ltd, 26, Brookfields, Calver, Hope Valley, Derbyshire, S32 3XB. Libraries and research facilities as applicable

## **Background and project objectives**

This project is a desk study to underpin a 'proof of concept' for electric weed control in field vegetable crops. If this is successful then it is envisaged that further experimental development of equipment will occur and will be tested on growers' sites. The ultimate aim would be to develop a commercially available electric weed control device for use by the industry. Prototype systems have previously been developed and evaluated in the UK, USA and Belgium for control of crop 'bolters' and annual weed beet in sugar beet crops. However, to this point, widespread acceptance of the technique has been hindered by the availability of numerous herbicide alternatives in most vegetable crops.

Electric weed control would provide a novel non-chemical weed control technique for organic and conventional growers with the potential for substantial savings in labour costs, improved weed control and 'plugging of gaps' in crops where herbicide weed control options are becoming limited.

This desk study aims to search for information on electrical weed control systems and published research; to ascertain the opinion of the HSE on the method; to ascertain if any equipment is currently available in the world and to ascertain the likely extent of applicability of the method to the industry.

Further information

Email the HDC office ([hdc@hdc.org.uk](mailto:hdc@hdc.org.uk)), quoting your HDC number, alternatively contact the HDC at the address below.

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