



Horticultural
Development
Company

New Project

FV 353

Carrot cavity spot: (i) using quantitative PCR to predict disease in strawed crops; (ii) controlling soil moisture for optimum disease management

Project Number: FV 353

Title: Carrot cavity spot: (i) using quantitative PCR to predict disease in strawed crops; (ii) controlling soil moisture for optimum disease management

Start and end dates: 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010

Project Leader: Dr D J Barbara, Warwick HRI

Project Co-ordinator: Mr D Martin, Plantsystems Ltd

Location: Warwick HRI, University of Warwick, Wellesbourne, Warwick, CV35 9EF

Background and project objectives

Cavity spot remains an important disease in the UK.

Early harvest can be used to minimise damage to crops (and save the cost of strawing the crop) but in the absence of clear symptoms, growers have little basis on which to decide to do this. This project will evaluate using qPCR testing of “soil off carrot surfaces” in August/September or pre-strawing as an aid to making this decision.

The main driver controlling growth of *P. violae* is soil moisture (results from DEFRA-funded project). Fungicides can offer some control of the fungus. The second part of this project will examine how much applied water (rain + irrigation) is necessary to ensure the fungus is actively growing and hence susceptible to the treatment. (Complementary funding is sought from Syngenta to include direct tests on the timing of fungicide applications in relation to applied water).

Further information

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

Horticultural Development Company
Tithe Barn
Bradbourne House
East Malling
Kent
ME19 6DZ

Tel: 01732 848 383
Fax: 01732 848 498

The contents of this publication are strictly private to HDC members. No part of this publication may be copied or reproduced in any form or by any means without prior written permission of the Horticultural Development Company.