



Horticultural
Development
Company

New Project

FV 357

Outdoor lettuce: evaluation
of novel fungicides for
downy mildew control

Project Number: FV 357

Title: Outdoor lettuce: evaluation of novel fungicides for downy mildew control

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

Project Leader: Dr Peter Gladders ADAS, Battlegate Road, Boxworth, Cambs.

Project Co-ordinator: David Norman, Independent Agronomist

Location:

Fungicide evaluation experiments will be done in a polytunnel or unheated glasshouse at ADAS Boxworth, Cambs, CB23 4NN. Facilities in the Horticultural plant pathology laboratory at ADAS Boxworth will be used, e.g. for preparation of artificial inoculum.

Background and project objectives

Downy mildew caused by the Oomycete pathogen *Bremia lactucae* is the most important disease problem in field-grown lettuce. Varietal resistance is available and can provide useful levels of control, although major gene resistance can be overcome quite rapidly. Fungicides are therefore required to support genetic resistance to maintain control. There has been no screening of novel products for lettuce downy mildew control in the UK for almost 10 years and in this time there have been significant new developments in potato blight fungicides and related products. There is commercial support to extend the use of some of the products into lettuce and other vegetables. The proposed work will provide new information on fungicide efficacy and will enable growers to improve disease management and reduce wastage. The work complements studies on other lettuce diseases recently funded by HDC, so growers will have up-to-date information for the control of the major lettuce pathogens.

Further information

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

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