



Horticultural
Development
Company

New Project

HNS 170

HNS: initial evaluation of
Trichogramma brassicae
parasites for control of
Carnation tortrix

Project Number: HNS 170

Title: HNS: initial evaluation of *Trichogramma brassicae* parasites for control of Carnation tortrix

Start and end dates: 1 July 2008 to 28 February 2009

Project Leader: Mike Lole and John Buxton, ADAS

Project Co-ordinator: John Adlam, Dove Associates

Location: Wyevale Nurseries, Kings Acre, Hereford, HR4 7AY in liner polytunnels

Background and project objectives

The egg parasitic wasp *Trichogramma* is mass reared in many countries for the control of a range of moth pest species. However, there is no experience of using it in the UK for the control of the Carnation tortrix moth, which is a serious pest of evergreen HNS subjects such as Daphne, Magnolia, Prunus, Pyracantha, Hypericum, etc. Growers often have to spray five or six times per season to achieve control of the caterpillars, and this is both time consuming and expensive. There are no recommendations for biological control at present, but it is possible that *Trichogramma brassicae* will successfully parasitise the egg masses of Carnation tortrix moth, thus improving overall control in a sustainable manner. The aim of this project is to determine, in small scale cage tests, whether biological control using this parasite is economically possible under practical nursery conditions.

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

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