



Horticultural
Development
Company

New Project

PE 002

Development rate of *Tuta absoluta* under UK
glasshouse conditions

Project Number: PE 002

Title: Development rate of *Tuta absoluta* under UK glasshouse conditions

Start and end dates: 01/04/10 – 31/03/11

Project Leader: Dr Andrew Cuthbertson, FERA

Project Co-ordinator: Dr Phil Morley, WSG

Location: Licensed Insect Quarantine Unit
Fera,
York YO41 1LZ

Background and project objectives:

This project will investigate the population development rate of the South American tomato moth (*Tuta absoluta*) in relation to UK glasshouse conditions. This moth is rapidly spreading around Europe and presents a serious threat to the viability of the British tomato industry. Current scientific literature shows huge variations in life cycle generation times and most of the data that is available has been produced for other climates. The overall length of the life cycle under UK growing conditions is unknown, as is the time available for the first instar larva to be exposed to control measures before penetrating the plant. These knowledge gaps are proving to be a major constraint in the design of new control strategies for application within the UK. Further knowledge of the biology of *T. absoluta* will give growers and consultants alike a better understanding of how to implement control strategies against this pest.

Further information

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

HDC
Stoneleigh Park
Kenilworth
Warwickshire
CV8 2TL

Tel – 0247 669 2051

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.