



Horticultural
Development
Company

New Project

SF 91a

Extension to SF91: Evaluation of herbicides
for use in strawberry bed systems

Project Number: SF 91a

Title: Extension to SF91: Evaluation of herbicides for use in strawberry bed systems

Start and end dates: 01/11/09 - 31/07/10

Project Leader: John Atwood, ADAS

Project Co-ordinator: Stephen McGuffie

Location: Mr R Simkin
Mr S Clarke

Background and project objectives:

It is proposed to undertake an extension to project SF91 in order to evaluate the use of Shark (carfentrazone-ethyl) as an overall, dormant season treatment in strawberries. Different timings and rates of use would be evaluated on two sites for one season, assessing the effect on runner population and mother plant growth in the spring.

Results from the project to date indicate that when used as an inter-row treatment Shark has only a moderate contact effect on runners with no translocation to the mother plant. Shark is known to have particularly useful activity against troublesome overwintered weeds such as cleavers, nettles and willowherb. Results so far suggest that Shark might have potential for use as an selective overall treatment for contact weed control during the winter with relatively little risk of damage to the mother plant. However it is necessary to confirm that the mother plants are undamaged, and to what extent runners are thinned out.

The manufacturers of Shark, Belchim, are broadly supportive of the idea and could not foresee any particular regulatory problem with the use of Shark in this way provided residue data can be generated. The proposed trial extension could be used to generate indicative residue data, but further specific residue trials funded by the HDC would be required to support a SOLA.

It is proposed to undertake two additional experiments this winter (2009-10), one on plastic bed system strawberries and one on a traditional matted row bare soil system. Treatments would be applied at 3 timings mid November, mid January and early March. Shark would be applied at 2 rates, 330 ml / ha and 800 ml / ha at all 3 timings. There would be an untreated control and 4 replications.

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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