

Project title: Narcissus: Screening new varieties for basal rot susceptibility

Project number: BOF 57

Project Leader: Andrew Tompsett

Report: Final report 2009

Previous reports: Annual reports 2006, 2007 and 2008

Key workers: Martin Goodey, Manager, Trenoweth Horticulture Centre.

Location: Trenoweth Horticulture Centre, St. Mary's, Isles of Scilly, TR21 ONS

Co-ordinator: Robert Body, CABGA, Nanpusker Farm, Hayle, Cornwall (01736 753438) and David Bond, Heath Farm, Blofield Heath, Norwich (01603 270 294)

Project commenced: June 2005

Expected Completion date: Autumn 2009

Key words: daffodils, varieties, cultivars, basal rot, *Fusarium oxysporum f. sp. narcissi*

Waiver, disclaimer and copyright

Whilst reports issued under the auspices of the HDC are prepared from the best available information, neither the authors nor the HDC can accept any responsibility for accuracy or liability for loss, damage or injury from the application of any concept or procedure discussed.

The contents of his 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 Council.

The results and conclusions in this report are based on a series of experiments conducted over a one-year period. The conditions under which the experiments were carried out and the results have been reported in detail and with accuracy. However, because of the biological nature of the work it must be borne in mind that different circumstances and conditions could produce different results. Therefore, care must be taken with interpretation of the results, especially if they are used as the basis for commercial product recommendations.

CONTENTS

| | Page |
|---|------|
| Grower Summary | 3 |
| Headline | 3 |
| Background and expected deliverables | 3 |
| Summary of the project and main conclusions | 3 |
| Financial benefits | 3 |
| Action points for growers | 4 |
| Science Section | 5 |
| Introduction | 5 |
| Materials and Methods | 5 |
| Results | 6 |
| Discussion | 12 |
| Technology Transfer, Reference and Acknowledgements | 13 |
| Appendix | 14 |

GROWER SUMMARY

Headline

In a screening trial in the Isles of Scilly, of 111 bulb stocks exposed to high basal rot disease pressure, St. Keverne (Div. 2), Kerensa (Div. 1) and Lancaster (Div. 3) headed the list for basal rot resistance. Chinita, (a Div. 9 poet) was also resistant. Many new unnamed seedling stocks showed resistance and Actaea Seeding (Div.9) was also resistant.

Background and expected deliverables

Basal rot (*Fusarium oxysporum f. sp. narcissi*), is the most serious bulb-borne fungal disease of narcissus worldwide and has been damaging daffodil crops for at least 100 years. It remains one of the most intransigent problems for the industry. In the light of reducing availability of chemical controls, growers need to be aware of the relative susceptibility of stocks to basal rot in order to be able to dispose of susceptible stocks and concentrate on growing those showing a degree of disease resistance. In order to identify stock with good resistance to basal rot, a total of 111 bulb stocks were screened under high basal rot pressure in both one-year and two-year-down trials. This basal rot test was developed by Rosewarne Experimental Horticulture Station between 1980 and 1989. It involves planting a healthy test bulb beside a basal rot infested bulb cv. 'Golden Harvest'.

Summary of the project and main conclusions

Disease pressure applied in this test (equivalent to planting a stock with 50% rotten bulbs) revealed susceptibility ranging from 0% - 66%. Losses from two-year-down tests were similar to those occurring in one-year-down tests.

In previous assessments, the variety Dutch Master provided a standard as a moderately susceptible Division 1 trumpet daffodil variety and was therefore included in trial 1. Four stocks were more susceptible than Dutch Master and a total of 16 stocks were at least classed as moderately susceptible. St. Keverne and Kerensa (St. Keverne x Malvern City) showed good resistance with no losses in five of the six tests.

Figures for healthy bulb weight remaining are generally the converse of the basal rot percentage with St. Keverne and Kerensa showing increases of 39 and 27 % respectively. The jonquil hybrid Rosemoor Gold tops the list for bulb yield with 59% weight increase.

Observations on bulb quality revealed that basal rot attack frequently appears to result in poor bulb quality with an enlarged and corky base plate. It is likely that this results in poor root action and subsequent lower bulb yield.

The second trial was of 63 newer stocks and contained no 'standard' varieties. The levels of basal rot were lower than in trial 1. Many of these varieties were raised from the resistant varieties St. Keverne and Dawley. Of the 37 stocks rated resistant (less than 5% basal rot) 18 have St. Keverne or Dawley as one parent. Amongst the most disease resistant varieties were Actaea Seedling (Div. 9), Brackenhurst (Div. 2) and Poetaz Seedling (Div. 8). Actaea Seedling was also a high yielder as were about 17 of the ex-GCRI seedlings.

Financial benefits

Basal rot is probably the most intractable and costly disease that the bulb grower encounters. Choice of variety depends upon many factors not least of which is the need to grow a sequence of high yielding varieties to provide flowering continuity whilst meeting the demands of the bulb trade. Identifying and discarding those stocks which are prone to basal rot is of huge financial importance. This particularly applies to new varieties where assessing susceptibility to basal rot is

essential as much time and expense will be devoted to building up stock and it is clearly a serious matter if such a variety subsequently proves susceptible to disease under commercial conditions.

Action points for growers

- The information on basal rot susceptibility provided in this project has been accumulated over several years and gives an essential guide to performance in commerce. Growers holding these stocks will be able to assess them for future priority treatment and propagation or as candidates for destruction. The complete list of varieties tested and results is given in the full report, available from HDC.
- Desirable stocks showing a susceptibility to basal rot will need to be observed closely on growers' farms for signs of problems developing and this may necessitate adopting special cultural practices and fungicide treatment.

SCIENCE SECTION

Introduction

Basal rot (*Fusarium oxysporum f. sp. narcissi*), is the most serious bulb-borne fungal disease of narcissus worldwide. The fungus causes root rot, premature leaf senescence and after lifting, bulbs feel soft and may become completely rotten. Basal rot has been damaging daffodil crops for at least 100 years and remains one of the most intransigent problems. Virtually all growers experience some problems and uncertainty every year. The disease causes major problems in the bulb trade, especially exports, and its presence in consignments reflects badly on the industry. For many years the two major varieties 'Golden Harvest' and 'Carlton', together with many others, have recorded varying, but significant, basal rot losses and have had to be routinely treated with fungicides. The replacement of these varieties with resistant stocks was long overdue but is now occurring.

Daffodil breeding at Rosewarne Experimental Horticulture Station and the Glasshouse Crops Research Institute created a pool of new varieties that were not screened for basal rot susceptibility. Resistant parents such as 'St. Keverne' were regularly used in these breeding programmes. A key to names and parentage of the lines tested is given in Appendix 1.

This work sought to give growers information on the basal rot susceptibility of some of the new clones and varieties. The project employed a test which had previously been applied to a range of Rosewarne raised clones. (Tompsett, *Acta Horticulturae* 177, 1986). To date, no reliable laboratory screening technique has been developed. The field test consisted of planting healthy bulbs of each stock next to inoculator bulbs (*Fusarium* - rotted 'Golden Harvest' bulbs) and assessing the result after one or two years.

Materials and methods

Trial design and bulb stocks

Healthy test bulbs of each stock were planted, each one touching a rotted 'Golden Harvest' bulb. 48 different stocks of narcissus were tested for basal rot susceptibility from 2005 and a further 63 from 2006. Tests continued until 2009. The candidate stocks for testing were supplied by growers, and had not received a fungicide dip in the previous two years. Each selection was exposed to a high level of *Fusarium* inoculum over one and two growing seasons.

Production of infected bulbs (Inoculators)

Each year 'Golden Harvest' bulbs were artificially infected with *Fusarium oxysporum f. sp. narcissi* by cutting the base plate of the bulbs, immersing them in an infected dip and then storing them at 25°C for up to 4 weeks to allow symptoms to develop. Only those bulbs developing symptoms of basal rot infection, that is, softness and whitish *Fusarium* sporulation around the base plate were used as inoculators.

Planting and layout of the trial

Each autumn bulbs of each stock were planted by hand, in nets, in a double row, 100 mm apart each way, in furrows as normal. An inoculator bulb was then placed touching each test bulb. Tubular netting was used to contain the test bulbs so that none was lost, and each could be accounted for at harvest. Also, no portion of the inoculator, should it survive, was mistakenly included in the result. Separation of the test bulbs in the tubular netting made it possible to record losses accurately.

For each variety, two blocks of ten bulbs were planted adjacent to each other. Therefore for each variety:

- The one-year test comprised 2 replicates x 10 bulbs per plot
- The two-year test comprised 2 replicates x 10 bulbs per plot

Thus, over a 4-year period each stock in part 1 was subjected to 4 x one-year tests and 2 x two-year tests. In part 2 the 3-year period allowed one two-year and 3 x one-year tests.

Cultivation followed standard bulb production management and standard hot-water treatment was not used.

Assessment of the trial

Annually, after one or two growing seasons, the bulbs from each trial were lifted. To advance the expression of disease these were stored at 25 C for 2 weeks and then at ambient temperature until recorded and re-assembled for replanting. The presence of basal rot was assessed visually and by applying pressure to the bulbs. Basal rot assessment was non-destructive so that the trial could continue. The number and weight of remaining healthy bulbs was recorded.

Assessment of infection:

Not infected = bulb survived and may have increased in weight or number, or

Infected = bulb rotted or an obvious gap, often with bulb residue remaining in the net.

Where there were insufficient survivors some spare bulbs were used to make good the number required for replanting. Occasionally, when this was insufficient the variety was eliminated from the trial. (See CABGA 43 and 52)

Analysis of results

The results were recorded as the number and % of rotted bulbs and the weight of firm bulbs remaining. The weight of firm bulbs remaining compared with the planted weight is expressed as % weight remaining. It will be seen that bulb weight increase (or survival) is generally inversely related to the amount of bulbs lost to disease.

One cause of some inconsistency in results was due to attack from Large Narcissus Fly especially in the two-year-down bulbs. Steps were taken to reduce the incidence of Fly attack by applying chlorpyrifos to the planting furrows and burning over in June, neither of which is particularly effective. It is worth pointing out that trials conducted in former years (1980/89) were routinely treated with aldrin to control this pest. Aldrin is now unavailable following its withdrawal in 1989.

Results

Results are presented in two sections.

Part 1 is the trial first planted in 2005 and producing 6 sets of data.

Part 2 is the trial first planted in 2006 for which there are 4 sets of data.

The column entitled 'Resistance category' groups the varieties according to the mean result.

Under 5% = resistant

Under 10% = moderately resistant

Over 10% = moderately susceptible

Over 20% = susceptible

Well-known standard varieties are shown in heavy capitals.

RESULTS (PART 1)

The 48 varieties first planted in 2005 presented in order of basal rot susceptibility after 6 sets of results. (Cols. 1, 2, 4 and 5 = 1-year down, Cols. 3 and 6 = 2-year down)

| Variety | % Basal Rot | | | | | | | Resistance category |
|--------------------|-------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|------------------------|
| | Mean % | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | |
| ST. KEVERNE | 0.33 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | Resistant |
| Chinita | 0.50 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | -- |
| Lancaster | 0.66 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | -- |
| Kerensa | 0.83 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | -- |
| St. Peter | 1.00 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 2 | -- |
| Rosemoor Gold | 1.83 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 2 | -- |
| Cornish Chuckles | 2.16 | 0 | 6 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 4 | -- |
| CABGA 37 | 2.33 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 11 | 3 | 0 | -- |
| Beauvallon | 2.33 | 0 | 14 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | -- |
| CABGA 50 | 2.50 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 9 | -- |
| Veryan | 2.50 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 3 | -- |
| Jersey Roundabout | 3.16 | 4 | 0 | 7 | 8 | 0 | 0 | -- |
| Trelawney Gold | 3.66 | 4 | 6 | 7 | 0 | 3 | 2 | -- |
| Talwyn | 4.00 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 15 | -- |
| Emblyn | 4.16 | 9 | 3 | 0 | 13 | 0 | 0 | -- |
| Tamara | 4.66 | 2 | 14 | 2 | 10 | 0 | 0 | -- |
| CABGA 65/45/2 | 4.83 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 23 | -- |
| Jersey Torch | 4.83 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 14 | 7 | 0 | -- |
| CABGA 47 | 4.83 | 10 | 0 | 6 | 7 | 0 | 6 | -- |
| CABGA 21 | 5.00 | 18 | 6 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 0 | Moderately resistant |
| Dellan | 5.50 | 9 | 10 | 2 | 3 | 9 | 0 | -- |
| CABGA 39 | 6.16 | 3 | 17 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 0 | -- |
| CABGA 22 | 6.16 | 3 | 7 | 7 | 17 | 3 | 0 | -- |
| Jedna | 6.50 | 5 | 3 | 0 | 15 | 11 | 5 | -- |
| CABGA 38 | 6.50 | 13 | 0 | 24 | 0 | 0 | 2 | -- |
| Gold Crest | 6.66 | 8 | 12 | 5 | 9 | 4 | 2 | -- |
| Golden Anniversary | 6.83 | 3 | 6 | 13 | 14 | 0 | 5 | -- |
| Gold Crown | 8.00 | 15 | 8 | 0 | 15 | 10 | 0 | -- |
| Marjorie Hine | 8.00 | 27 | 2 | 0 | 14 | 5 | 0 | -- |
| CABGA 20 | 9.66 | 14 | 10 | 6 | 0 | 18 | 10 | -- |
| Kingscourt | 9.66 | 6 | 26 | 6 | 11 | 0 | 9 | -- |
| CABGA 48 | 9.66 | 7 | 14 | 7 | 19 | 3 | 8 | -- |
| Brabazon | 11.00 | 34 | 11 | 8 | 2 | 0 | 11 | Moderately susceptible |
| Irish Minstrel | 11.50 | 16 | 20 | 7 | 7 | 15 | 4 | -- |
| RED DEVON | 12.00 | 35 | 14 | 3 | 18 | 0 | 2 | -- |
| Tibet | 13.00 | 6 | 19 | 4 | 19 | 18 | 12 | -- |
| Loch Owskeich | 13.33 | 43 | 13 | 5 | 13 | 0 | 6 | -- |
| CABGA 8 | 15.83 | 3 | 8 | 15 | 14 | 19 | 36 | -- |
| STANDARD VALUE | 17.33 | 19 | 36 | 36 | 0 | 0 | 13 | -- |
| CABGA 24 | 18.66 | 34 | 7 | 18 | 11 | 10 | 32 | -- |
| CABGA 19 | 20.16 | 0 | 19 | 17 | 21 | 10 | 54 | Susceptible |
| Knight of St. John | 20.16 | 22 | 37 | 17 | 26 | 14 | 5 | -- |
| CABGA 49 | 21.16 | 50 | 20 | 9 | 16 | 26 | 6 | -- |
| DUTCH MASTER | 21.50 | 34 | 15 | 20 | 0 | 18 | 42 | -- |
| CABGA 55 | 24.00 | 50 | 30 | 19 | 15 | 11 | 19 | -- |
| GOLDEN DUCAT | 28.83 | 44 | 27 | 20 | 29 | 8 | 45 | -- |
| CABGA 52 | 55.00 | 66 | 44 | - | - | - | - | -- |
| CABGA 43 | 66.00 | 82 | 50 | - | - | - | - | -- |

| Part 1 | % bulb weight remaining | | | | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Variety | Mean % | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| Rosemoor Gold | 159 | 208 | 213 | 177 | 140 | 93 | 121 |
| CABGA 38 | 146 | 153 | 178 | 163 | 146 | 110 | 124 |
| ST. KEVERNE | 139 | 161 | 158 | 137 | 134 | 101 | 144 |
| Jedna | 139 | 204 | 34 | 247 | 119 | 94 | 134 |
| CABGA 65/45/2 | 137 | 182 | 160 | 193 | 121 | 81 | 87 |
| Kerensa | 127 | 122 | 167 | 113 | 161 | 91 | 105 |
| Chinita | 125 | 114 | 99 | 106 | 150 | 97 | 182 |
| CABGA 37 | 123 | 147 | 95 | 129 | 126 | 102 | 138 |
| Emblyn | 121 | 173 | 115 | 78 | 117 | 104 | 140 |
| Talwyn | 120 | 159 | 125 | 145 | 104 | 104 | 84 |
| St. Peter | 119 | 148 | 88 | 127 | 129 | 100 | 124 |
| CABGA 39 | 116 | 106 | 93 | 153 | 137 | 97 | 109 |
| CABGA 22 | 115 | 140 | 118 | 118 | 98 | 89 | 126 |
| Golden Anniversary | 114 | 136 | 131 | 94 | 110 | 100 | 114 |
| RED DEVON | 113 | 96 | 119 | 138 | 92 | 105 | 125 |
| CABGA 21 | 108 | 92 | 57 | 98 | 146 | 109 | 148 |
| CABGA 8 | 108 | 175 | 105 | 137 | 92 | 85 | 55 |
| Veryan | 107 | 136 | 86 | 102 | 103 | 110 | 128 |
| Tamara | 105 | 116 | 76 | 112 | 112 | 97 | 118 |
| Gold Crest | 105 | 120 | 67 | 131 | 84 | 106 | 121 |
| CABGA 19 | 105 | 147 | 131 | 108 | 126 | 82 | 35 |
| Trelawney Gold | 104 | 110 | 95 | 96 | 146 | 93 | 84 |
| Lancaster | 103 | 120 | 106 | 103 | 111 | 86 | 92 |
| Dellan | 103 | 117 | 94 | 91 | 106 | 89 | 120 |
| CABGA 20 | 103 | 86 | 105 | 167 | 71 | 104 | 83 |
| Marjorie Hine | 102 | 153 | 90 | 120 | 79 | 77 | 91 |
| Gold Crown | 101 | 147 | 62 | 113 | 115 | 80 | 88 |
| CABGA 47 | 100 | 94 | 63 | 105 | 153 | 83 | 102 |
| Knight of St. John | 96 | 153 | 89 | 55 | 84 | 95 | 100 |
| CABGA 48 | 95 | 124 | 55 | 83 | 93 | 103 | 109 |
| Kingscourt | 94 | 121 | 78 | 72 | 117 | 88 | 90 |
| CABGA 50 | 93 | 111 | 65 | 66 | 97 | 124 | 98 |
| Jersey Roundabout | 93 | 95 | 80 | 89 | 104 | 84 | 105 |
| Brabazon | 92 | 125 | 56 | 55 | 130 | 83 | 100 |
| Cornish Chuckles | 89 | 122 | 83 | 86 | 93 | 67 | 84 |
| Irish Minstrel | 88 | 100 | 61 | 79 | 127 | 73 | 87 |
| DUTCH MASTER | 88 | 127 | 89 | 86 | 110 | 70 | 48 |
| Loch Owskeich | 88 | 61 | 70 | 79 | 107 | 100 | 109 |
| Beauvallon | 87 | 88 | 48 | 73 | 135 | 76 | 104 |
| Jersey Torch | 83 | 94 | 71 | 78 | 91 | 77 | 85 |
| CABGA 49 | 80 | 71 | 57 | 81 | 93 | 83 | 98 |
| CABGA 24 | 77 | 78 | 65 | 55 | 123 | 69 | 70 |
| Tibet | 75 | 104 | 53 | 79 | 70 | 61 | 80 |
| GOLDEN DUCAT | 74 | 88 | 72 | 63 | 78 | 107 | 33 |
| CABGA 55 | 67 | 42 | 37 | 48 | 93 | 87 | 97 |
| STANDARD VALUE | 66 | 90 | 57 | 33 | - | 81 | 70 |
| CABGA 52 | 48 | 50 | 46 | - | - | - | - |
| CABGA 43 | 17 | 19 | 15 | - | - | - | - |

RESULTS (PART 2)

The 63 varieties first planted in 2006 presented in order of basal rot susceptibility after 4 sets of results. (Cols. 1,2 & 4 = 1-year down, Col. 3 = 2-year down)

| Variety | % basal rot | | | | | Resistance category |
|------------------|-------------|----|---|----|----|----------------------|
| | Mean % | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | |
| Actaea Seedling | 0.00 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Resistant |
| 24Q | 0.00 | 0 | 0 | 0 | - | -- |
| 134 | 0.00 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | -- |
| 323 | 0.00 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | -- |
| 650 | 0.00 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | -- |
| 106 | 0.25 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | -- |
| Brackenhurst | 0.50 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | -- |
| Poetaz Seedling | 0.50 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | -- |
| 30D | 0.50 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | -- |
| 51C | 0.50 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | -- |
| 121 | 0.50 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | -- |
| 124 | 0.50 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | -- |
| 401 | 0.50 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | -- |
| Estremadura | 0.75 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | -- |
| 442 | 0.75 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | -- |
| Abba | 1.00 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | -- |
| Foxhunter | 1.25 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | -- |
| Rose of May | 1.25 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 0 | -- |
| 104 | 1.25 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 4 | -- |
| Articol | 1.50 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 0 | -- |
| 2J | 1.50 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 4 | -- |
| 35D | 1.50 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | -- |
| 718 | 1.66 | 5 | 0 | - | 0 | -- |
| 66C | 1.75 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 | -- |
| 23G | 2.00 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 3 | -- |
| Pink Charm | 2.25 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 6 | -- |
| 19F | 2.50 | 3 | 0 | 4 | 3 | -- |
| 68H | 2.50 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10 | -- |
| Cornish Vanguard | 3.00 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 8 | -- |
| 45J | 3.00 | 5 | 0 | - | 4 | -- |
| 77 | 3.25 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 4 | -- |
| 10P | 3.50 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 4 | -- |
| Seagreen | 4.00 | 11 | 5 | 0 | 0 | -- |
| 385 | 4.50 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 4 | -- |
| 635 | 4.50 | 11 | 0 | 7 | 0 | -- |
| Eden Gold | 4.75 | 7 | 4 | 4 | 4 | -- |
| 68K | 4.75 | 0 | 2 | 11 | 6 | -- |
| Double Actaea | 5.00 | 0 | 2 | 9 | 9 | -- |
| 344 | 5.00 | 9 | 1 | 10 | 0 | -- |
| Lady Sainsbury | 5.25 | 0 | 0 | 17 | 4 | Moderately resistant |
| 29K | 5.25 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 15 | -- |
| Smiling Maestro | 5.50 | 2 | 5 | 8 | 7 | -- |
| 2E | 5.50 | 0 | 0 | 19 | 3 | -- |
| Furbellow | 5.75 | 5 | 0 | 11 | 7 | -- |
| 36D | 6.50 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 17 | -- |

| | | | | | | <i>Continued from previous page</i> |
|---------------|-------|----|----|----|----|-------------------------------------|
| Camilla | 7.00 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 21 | -- |
| Cornish Pride | 8.50 | 3 | 0 | 12 | 19 | -- |
| Flambards | 10.00 | 4 | 7 | 25 | 4 | -- |
| Mellen | 10.25 | 8 | 2 | 16 | 15 | Moderately susceptible |
| 47B | 10.50 | 0 | 6 | 33 | 5 | -- |
| 70H | 10.50 | 6 | 10 | 22 | 4 | -- |
| Treglisson | 10.50 | 8 | 14 | 12 | 0 | -- |
| CABGA 51 | 10.75 | 0 | 3 | - | 40 | -- |
| High Life | 11.50 | 5 | 5 | 20 | 16 | -- |
| Tripartite | 12.25 | 7 | 5 | 13 | 24 | -- |
| 194 | 13.00 | 5 | 0 | 47 | 0 | -- |
| Ganilly | 13.75 | 0 | 13 | 34 | 8 | -- |
| 38H | 15.00 | 0 | 8 | 45 | 7 | -- |
| 470 | 15.50 | 12 | 5 | 25 | 20 | -- |
| Camelot | 15.75 | 45 | 3 | 15 | 0 | -- |
| Nanpusker | 17.50 | 29 | 3 | 30 | 8 | -- |
| 530 | 18.75 | 13 | 24 | 24 | 14 | -- |
| 232 | 20.50 | 9 | 8 | 42 | 23 | Susceptible |

| Part 2 | | % bulb weight remaining | | | |
|------------------------|--------|-------------------------|-----|-----|-----|
| Variety | Mean % | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 35D | 147 | 157 | 116 | 168 | 78 |
| 401 | 145 | 134 | 193 | 139 | 112 |
| 134 | 142 | 149 | 119 | 195 | 103 |
| 45J | 141 | 127 | 199 | - | 97 |
| 104 | 138 | 144 | 116 | 205 | 88 |
| 19F | 135 | 138 | 151 | 152 | 100 |
| 121 | 134 | 143 | 148 | 148 | 97 |
| 51C | 132 | 137 | 128 | 125 | 139 |
| 30D | 131 | 133 | 195 | 97 | 100 |
| 36D | 128 | 164 | 162 | 114 | 70 |
| Actaea Seedling | 127 | 130 | 201 | 105 | 73 |
| 385 | 127 | 153 | 135 | 123 | 95 |
| 2J | 126 | 144 | 136 | 140 | 85 |
| 2E | 126 | 149 | 153 | 108 | 93 |
| 718 | 124 | 154 | 139 | - | 79 |
| 10P | 124 | 138 | 135 | 128 | 95 |
| 323 | 123 | 130 | 172 | 97 | 93 |
| 106 | 122 | 136 | 138 | 130 | 82 |
| Abba | 121 | 128 | 176 | 112 | 66 |
| 66C | 120 | 119 | 168 | 115 | 78 |
| Foxhunter | 116 | 142 | 126 | 114 | 83 |
| 24Q | 115 | 127 | 141 | 116 | 75 |
| 650 | 115 | 129 | 139 | 88 | 103 |
| Estremadura | 115 | 124 | 160 | 100 | 74 |
| Ganilly | 115 | 163 | 92 | 118 | 86 |
| Articol | 114 | 135 | 155 | 84 | 82 |
| <i>Table continued</i> | | | | | |

| | | | <i>Continued from previous page</i> | | |
|------------------|-----|-----|-------------------------------------|-----|-----|
| Pink Charm | 113 | 113 | 139 | 115 | 83 |
| Camilla | 110 | 131 | 147 | 92 | 69 |
| 77 | 109 | 101 | 135 | 105 | 95 |
| 68K | 108 | 140 | 120 | 111 | 60 |
| Brackenhurst | 106 | 132 | 107 | 92 | 91 |
| Poetaz Seedling | 106 | 108 | 135 | 103 | 77 |
| 442 | 105 | 111 | 130 | 102 | 77 |
| 344 | 103 | 121 | 127 | 85 | 78 |
| 68H | 100 | 125 | 98 | 128 | 50 |
| 47B | 100 | 138 | 115 | 65 | 80 |
| 635 | 99 | 107 | 106 | 81 | 100 |
| 38H | 99 | 145 | 110 | 60 | 82 |
| Lady Sainsbury | 98 | 77 | 185 | 62 | 69 |
| Furbellow | 96 | 100 | 98 | 110 | 77 |
| 194 | 94 | 115 | 140 | 47 | 73 |
| 23G | 93 | 126 | 69 | 103 | 75 |
| 29K | 93 | 105 | 113 | 78 | 74 |
| 124 | 91 | 121 | 101 | 91 | 50 |
| Smiling Maestro | 91 | 102 | 114 | 82 | 65 |
| 470 | 90 | 104 | 133 | 57 | 65 |
| 70H | 88 | 122 | 108 | 48 | 73 |
| Tripartite | 86 | 77 | 201 | 35 | 30 |
| CABGA 51 | 85 | 71 | 108 | - | 77 |
| Rose of May | 85 | 82 | 105 | 70 | 81 |
| Seagreen | 84 | 91 | 127 | 66 | 53 |
| Camelot | 82 | 70 | 91 | 94 | 71 |
| Flambards | 81 | 98 | 97 | 68 | 62 |
| High Life | 79 | 59 | 114 | 65 | 78 |
| Cornish Pride | 78 | 45 | 153 | 41 | 74 |
| Treglisson | 78 | 87 | 52 | 80 | 93 |
| 232 | 77 | 107 | 97 | 40 | 65 |
| Double Actaea | 76 | 91 | 115 | 58 | 38 |
| Cornish Vanguard | 74 | 73 | 85 | 48 | 89 |
| Eden Gold | 72 | 62 | 108 | 46 | 70 |
| Nanpusker | 72 | 48 | 114 | 50 | 76 |
| Mellen | 71 | 76 | 82 | 51 | 76 |
| 530 | 68 | 95 | 61 | 78 | 36 |

NB. The variety Treglisson in part 2 is the same stock as 65/45/2 in part 1

DISCUSSION

Between 1980 and 1989, the same screening test was applied to a range of varieties and unnamed seedlings raised at Rosewarne EHS. The new data can now be placed alongside the former records for comparison and to add confidence in the results.

| Variety | % basal rot | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| | Mean 1980 –1989 tests | Mean 2005 – 2008 tests |
| GOLDEN DUCAT | 59 | 28.8 |
| DUTCH MASTER | 31 | 21.5 |
| RED DEVON | 19 | 12.0 |
| Talwyn | 18 | 4.0 |
| Golden Anniversary (CABGA 1) | 16 | 6.8 |
| Cornish Pride (CABGA 19) | 13 | 8.5 |
| Emblyn | 12 | 4.2 |
| Patrick Hackett (CABGA 8) | 11 | 15.8 |
| Dellan | 8 | 5.5 |
| Tamara | 5 | 4.7 |
| Jedna | 4 | 6.5 |
| ST. KEVERNE | 0 | 0.3 |
| Kerensa | 0 | 0.8 |
| Rosemoor Gold (CABGA 46) | 0 | 1.8 |
| Cornish Chuckles (CABGA 80) | 0 | 2.2 |

The tests conducted in 1980-89 sought to avoid the release of new seedling stocks that could prove troublesome in commerce. The threshold proposed was that of Dutch Master, a variety that is moderately prone to disease in commercial practice. In the tests over 9 seasons Dutch Master averaged 31%. By comparison Golden Harvest and Carlton, varieties which have now declined in importance suffered 83 and 85 % losses respectively.

Throughout all the tests, past and present, the variety 'St. Keverne' has shown a high level of resistance. Research has shown that, unlike many other varieties it responds to fungal attack by producing barrier tissue within the base plate. Many varieties when subjected to inoculum, may not rot but do appear to develop a rather corky base plate

Breeding work using St. Keverne as a parent has increased the number of resistant stocks becoming available. This constitutes a generally favourable situation for the industry as it moves into an era of reduced fungicide availability.

Technology transfer

Interim results have been presented on several occasions at meetings of the Bulb Grower's Forum at Duchy College, Rosewarne, Cornwall.

Articles have been published in HDC News and a further article will be presented in 2010.

Reference

Tompsett, A.A. (1986) Narcissus varietal susceptibility to *Fusarium oxysporum* (basal rot). *Acta Horticulturae*, 177, 77-83.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks are due to the growers who supplied bulbs for testing.

Also, to the Directors of Trenoweth Horticultural Centre, St. Mary's, Isles of Scilly, where the work was carried out and to Mr Martin Goodey who gave valuable assistance.

APPENDIX

Final Report of HDC BOF 57 2009. Key to names and parentage of daffodils tested

| Code | Name | Parentage |
|----------------|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| CABGA stocks | | |
| 8 | Patrick Hacket | William the Silent x Malvern City |
| 19 | Cornish Pride | Dominator x Cibola |
| 20 | Fiery Maiden | Cibola x Trifine |
| 21 | Towan | St. Keverne x Golden Gift |
| 22 | Wendron | Malvern City x Kingscourt |
| 24 | | Malvern City x 10/57 |
| 37 | | St. Keverne x 65/24/1 |
| 38 | | Foresight x 63/1/10 |
| 39 | Cardiff | St. Keverne x Cibola |
| 43 | | Joseph Macleod x Topnotcher |
| 47 | | Malvern City x St. Keverne |
| 48 | | St. Keverne x 67/81/1 |
| 49 | | Golden Gift x Ristin |
| 50 | | St. Keverne x Yellow Triumphator |
| 52 | | Brabazon x Toorak Gold |
| 55 | | Golden Gift x Malvern City |
| 65/45/2 | Treglisson | Joseph Macleod x Malvern City |
| GCRI seedlings | | |
| 36D | | Golden Harvest x St. Keverne |
| 24Q | | Ditto x St. Keverne |
| 38H | | Ditto x St. Keverne |
| 68K | | Ditto x St. Keverne |
| 68H | | Ditto x St. Keverne |
| 10P | | Ditto x St. Keverne |
| 29K | | Ditto x St. Keverne |
| 70 H | | Ditto x St. Keverne |
| 47B | | Ditto x Fortune |
| 51C | | St. Keverne x Malvern City |
| 323 | | Ditto x Fortune |
| 2E | | Ditto x Dutch Master |
| 66C | | Ditto x Malvern City |
| 2J | | Ditto x Malvern City |
| 35D | | Ditto x King Alfred |
| 23G | | Ditto x Malvern City |
| 30D | | Ice Follies x St. Keverne |
| 470 | | Ditto x Jedna |
| 106 | | Ditto x Dawley |
| 121 | | Ditto x Dawley |
| 124 | | Ditto x Dawley |
| 134 | | Ditto x Dawley |
| 104 | | Ditto x Dawley |
| 19F | | Ditto x St. Keverne |
| 194 | | Ditto x Dutch Master |
| 650 | | Fortune x Tamara |
| 232 | | Ditto x Feena |
| 77 | | Ditto x Dawley |
| 344 | | Unsurpassable x Fortune |
| 442 | | Ditto x Ice Follies |

| | | |
|-----|--|------------------------------------|
| 401 | | Malvern City x Ice Follies |
| 385 | | Dutch Master x Ice Follies |
| 635 | | Ditto x Rijnveld's Early Sensation |
| 530 | | Ditto x Malvern City |