



Agriculture & Horticulture  
DEVELOPMENT BOARD



# New Project

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## **FV 403**

The potential of the coriander  
bacterial blight pathogen to infect  
parsley

**Project Number:** FV 403

**Project Title:** The potential of the coriander bacterial blight pathogen to infect parsley

**Project Leader:** Dr Steven Roberts

**Contractor:** Plant Health Solutions Ltd

**Industry Representative:** Dr Tom Davies, Malvern View Herbs

**Start Date:** 1st January 2012

**End Date:** 31st May 2012

**Project Cost:** £3,444

*SUBJECT TO CONTRACT*

**Project Summary:**

A recent scientific paper by workers in the USA contradicts earlier reports of the host range of the coriander bacterial blight pathogen. Their results suggest that strains of *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *coriandricola* (from coriander) can infect parsley and celery. This brings into question conventional wisdom on the host range of the coriander pathogen, based on previous scientific publications from Germany. The pathogen is seed-borne and clearly this potential for cross-infection would have implications for disease management both for seed, field and protected production of both crops. This short project will attempt to confirm the US results using recently isolated UK strains of the pathogen from the PHS collection and thereby clarify the potential for the seed-borne coriander pathogen to infect parsley. The current HDC fact sheet will be updated to take account of the results from the US and from this study.

**Aims & Objectives:**

(i) Project aim(s):

To confirm or otherwise recent reports from the USA of the potential of the coriander bacterial blight pathogen (*Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *coriandricola*) to infect parsley.

(ii) Project objective(s):

1. Inoculate coriander and parsley plants with strains of *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *coriandricola* from the PHS collection to determine their ability to infect and cause disease in parsley.
2. Update the HDC factsheet according to the results of the above tests and the recent US publication.

**Benefits to industry**

Parsley and coriander are the two most important field grown herbs. The project will attempt to clarify the potential of the most important and widespread disease of coriander (bacterial blight) to also infect parsley that is frequently grown in close proximity. This information is important in determining disease management strategies for disease in these crops and will be used to update the current HDC fact sheet on coriander bacterial blight.

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## **Further information**

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