



Horticultural
Development
Company

New Project

HNS 171a

Cordyline and Phormium: Investigation of causes of tip burn and yellow leaf spot syndrome

Project Number: HNS 171a

Title: Cordyline and Phormium: Investigation of causes of tip burn and yellow leaf spot syndrome

Start and end dates: May 2010 (3 years and 2 months)

Project Leader: **Dr Jill England, ADAS**

Project Co-ordinator: Mr David Hooker
Dr Steve Carter
Mr Malcolm Dick

Location: ADAS, Battlegate Road, Boxworth,
Fera, Sand Hutton, York
East Malling Research, East Malling, West Malling, Kent
Proposed grower holdings: John Woods Nurseries, Suffolk and
Hilliers Nurseries, Hampshire.

Background and project objectives:

This project will investigate two major problems affecting *Cordyline* and *Phormium* production (identified in HNS 171), namely yellow leaf spot syndrome and tip burn, to identify the causes of these conditions and to develop best practice guidelines to enable growers to consistently produce premium quality crops.

The proposed work will: 1) investigate the possible involvement of nutrient imbalance, irrigation water fluoride levels and environmental conditions on incidence of tip burn, and the effects of any interaction between treatments; 2) establish any involvement of virus-like particles previously found occurring in *Cordyline* tissue, and phytoplasmas in either species; 3) determine if oedema may be induced in *Cordyline* and under what conditions. These investigations will be followed by replicated trials to test the hypotheses developed and to establish best practice and control strategies for these disorders.

The results will advance the understanding of similar disorders in other species and crops (for example oedema in geranium, eucalyptus, potted herb species and tomato crops), and so help diagnoses and inform appropriate control strategies

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.