



Horticultural
Development
Company

New Project

HNS 179

Management of Bacterial
Canker in Prunus spp.

Project Number: HNS 179

Title: Management of Bacterial Canker in *Prunus* spp.

Start and end dates: 01 April 2010 to 31 March 2013

Project Leader: Steven Roberts

Project Co-ordinator: Nick Dunn, Mike Norris (latter TBC)

Location: Laboratory, glasshouse facilities: HDRA, Ryton Organic Gardens, Coventry CV3 8LG.

Grower trial sites: Frank P Matthews Ltd., Berrington, Tenbury Wells, WR15 8TH; New Place Nurseries, Pulborough, West Sussex.

Background and project objectives: Bacterial canker of *Prunus* spp. has been an on-going problem for HNS growers for many years and also causes losses to stone fruit growers [Note. The TF Panel were unable to co-fund this work, due to insufficient available funds]. Bacterial canker may be caused by two distinct pathovars of *Pseudomonas syringae*: pv. *morsprunorum* (*Psm*) and pv. *syringae* (*Pss*). *Psm* is host specific to *Prunus* spp., whereas pv. *syringae* has a much wider host range, with the potential for cross infection between a number of different species and genera. Although the stem canker phase is the most economically important, these pathogens may also cause leaf spots/shot-holes, shoot die-back and flower blights.

The overall aim of the project will be to identify management options which will be of benefit in the control of bacterial canker of *Prunus* spp. To achieve this the project will: aim to identify the main sources of primary inoculum on propagation nurseries; examine the potential of targeted treatments to reduce/eliminate inoculum; examine the relative merit of different practical approaches for cleaning/disinfection of pruning knives/secateurs; and critically review relevant scientific and advisory literature and draw together with the new experimental work to produce a Factsheet with clear practical recommendations.

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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