



Horticultural
Development
Company

New Project

PO 003

Development of safe and effective programmes for the early control of tobacco whitefly on poinsettia crops

Project Number: PO 003

Title: Development of safe and effective programmes for the early control of tobacco whitefly on poinsettia crops

Start and end dates: 01/05/10 – 30/04/11

Project Leader: Mr John Buxton

Project Co-ordinator: Russ Woodcock

Location: All efficacy work will be carried out in the quarantine laboratories at:
FERA, Sand Hutton, York, YO41 1 LZ.
The phytotoxicity work will be carried out at:
Bordon Hill Nursery, Stratford on Avon, CV37 9RY

Background and project objectives:

Tobacco whitefly caused serious problems on poinsettias in the 2009 season, and information on effective control measures is urgently needed by growers. This project aims to evaluate a range of insect control products for the control of tobacco whitefly, using a strain which proved difficult to control in 2009, and which was derived from a UK nursery. Products will be applied sequentially in different combinations, since a single application of any insecticide is unlikely to provide complete control of this pest. The efficacy work will be carried out in the licensed quarantine premises at FERA York, using established techniques by experienced researchers. To complement the efficacy work, the same products will be applied to a range of poinsettia varieties on a nursery under commercial conditions, and evaluated for crop safety effects.

These two aspects of the project complement each other, and will provide information about control programmes to be used early in the poinsettia crop which are both effective and safe.

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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