



Agriculture & Horticulture
DEVELOPMENT BOARD



New Project

PO 011a

Monitoring metalaxyl-M
sensitivity in Impatiens
Downy Mildew isolates from
infections in 2013

Project Number:	PO 011a
Project Title:	Monitoring metalaxyl-M sensitivity in Impatiens Downy Mildew isolates from infections in 2013
Project Leader:	Dr Phil Jennings
Contractor:	Fera
Industry Representative:	Mike Smith, W D Smith and Son
Start Date:	01 March 2013
End Date:	31 October 2013
Project Cost (total project cost):	£2,891

Project Summary:

Early and widespread introduction of a metalaxyl-M resistant strain of the pathogen responsible for impatiens downy mildew infections in commercial production in 2011 meant that the disease proved difficult to control. The proactive management decisions made by the industry regarding production of cutting raised plants in 2011 seem to have minimised the risk of infections by the metalaxyl-M resistant strain of *Plasmopara obducens* as no infection caused by this strain were detected during 2012 (PO 011). However the risk of infection by this strain still remains. This small scale project aims to repeat the monitoring carried out in 2012 to provide growers with:-

1. An early warning system for identifying metalaxyl-M resistance in any infections arising in 2013, in order to assist with decisions on suitable spray programmes.

Guidance on the prevalence, persistence and geographical distribution of the metalaxyl-M resistant isolate compared to metalaxyl sensitive isolates in the wider environment.

Aims & Objectives:

(i) Project aim(s): Provide a mechanism for metalaxyl-M resistance screening in commercially grown impatiens during 2013 in order to inform selection of fungicide programmes and also to monitor possible spread within outdoor planting displays.

Benefits to industry

In the UK, the annual retail value of the impatiens crop was estimated to be £40m prior to 2011. The outbreak of downy mildew in 2011 demonstrated that the disease has potential to destroy whole-site annual production as well as undermine consumer confidence in this commercially important product.

Prompt (up to 10 days after sample receipt) and widespread (sample originator and the wider network of growers) reporting of the metalaxyl-M resistance status of any infections occurring in 2013 would allow growers to ensure that spray programmes used will be effective in minimising losses that may result from any outbreaks.

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