



Horticultural
Development
Company

New Project

SF 103

Evaluation of *Metarhizium
anisopliae* for control of black
vine weevil larvae in field grown
strawberries

Project Number: SF 103

Title: Evaluation of *Metarhizium anisopliae* for control of black vine weevil larvae in field grown strawberries

Start and end dates: 1 April 2009 to 30 November 2010

Project Leader: Dr Tariq Butt, Swansea University

Project Co-ordinator: Mr Graham Moore

Location: Swansea University, Swansea

Background and project objectives

The black vine weevil (BVW) is a major pest of strawberries. Current control still depends on use of the organophosphate, chlorpyrifos. A strain of the insect pathogenic fungus, *Metarhizium anisopliae*, has been identified which shows much promise as a benign alternative for the control of BVW larvae in hardy nursery stock and strawberries in soil-less media. The current project will determine the efficacy of two formulations of *M. anisopliae* in controlling BVW larvae in the soil. In the first year, the optimum dose for use in field strawberries will be determined. In the second year large scale trials will be conducted to validate the efficacy and robustness of the two formulations. Data from these studies will be used to help accelerate registration of *M. anisopliae* in the UK.

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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