



Horticultural
Development
Company

New Project

SF 113

Comparison five non-pesticide mildew control products on strawberry

Project Number: SF 113

Title: Comparison five non-pesticide mildew control products on strawberry

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

Project Leader: James Carew. FAST

Project Co-ordinator: Laurie Adams, Hall Hunter Partnership

Location: Edward Vinson Ltd., Faversham, Kent

Background and project objectives:

Powdery mildew (*Podosphaera aphanis*) is an important disease of strawberry because it is widespread, it infects leaves, flowers and fruit and current production systems tend to provide optimal conditions for its development. Mildew, if not controlled, can cause near total crop loss. The disease can result in yield losses of between 20 and 70% of the crop potential. A previous HDC report put the potential cost of mildew to the industry at around £25mpa based on a 20% loss in yield (HDC Factsheet 17/08).

Even if mildew can be controlled through the use of fungicides, there is a need for fungicide use to be minimised with pressure on growers from customers to reduce pesticide use. A replacement strategy for mildew control is therefore necessary. This project aims to examine the effect of a combination of 5 products which each purport to have an effect on mildew in strawberry. The products to be tested are:

- Potassium bicarbonate
- Sulphur
- Serenade
- Sentry R
- Orophite

Each product is either registered as a fungicide for control of mildew on or off label in strawberry or has shown promise in previous on-farm trials but does not pose an issue with residues. The project will test the efficacy of these products when used in combination on a 60-day crop of 'Elsanta', a mildew susceptible production system. The effect of the treatments will be compared to an unsprayed control treatment and to a standard fungicide treatment.

The overall aim of the project is to develop a residue free control strategy for powdery mildew of strawberry.

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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