



Agriculture & Horticulture  
DEVELOPMENT BOARD



# New Project

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## SF 124

Development and validation of a  
molecular diagnostic test for  
strawberry tarsonemid mite

**Project Number:** SF 124

**Title:** Development and validation of a molecular diagnostic test for strawberry tarsonemid mite

**Start and end dates:** 1st April 2011 to 31st March 2013

**Project Leader:** Prof Jerry Cross, East Malling Research

**Industry Representative:** Richard Harnden (Soft Fruit Panel), Berry Gardens Growers Ltd

**Location:** Main site: East Malling Research  
Additional sites: FERA

**HDC Cost:** £ 44,014

*SUBJECT TO CONTRACT*

**Project Summary:**

A highly sensitive, rapid DNA-based molecular test for the tarsonemid mite in strawberry will be developed. The test will then be validated and its specificity, sensitivity and reliability determined. The effect of sample size (number of plants sampled) on the probability of detecting the pest with different levels of confidence will be quantified and optimum sample sizes recommended for different tolerance levels with different degree of confidence. The test will best be provided by FERA, to client groups specified by the HDC.

**Aims & Objectives:**

(i) Project aim

To develop a highly sensitive, rapid DNA-based molecular test for the tarsonemid mite in strawberry

(ii) Project objectives:

- 1: Develop a molecular test for strawberry tarsonemid mite (Year1)
- 2: Validate the test. Investigate specificity, sensitivity, reliability and determine optimum sample size (Years 1 and 2)

## **Further information**

Email the HDC office ([hdc@hdc.ahdb.org.uk](mailto:hdc@hdc.ahdb.org.uk)), quoting your HDC number, alternatively contact the HDC at the address below:

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