



Horticultural
Development
Company

New Project

SF 98

Sustainable management of
Mucor and *Rhizopus* in
strawberry and raspberry

Project Number: SF 98

Title: Sustainable management of *Mucor* and *Rhizopus* in strawberry and raspberry

Start and end dates: 1 May 2009 to 30 April 2011

Project Leader: Dr David Yohalem, EMR

Project Co-ordinator: Mr John Clark, Beech Farm Partnership

Location: East Malling Research, Kent

Background and project objectives

Soft rots caused by *Mucor* and *Rhizopus* cause significant losses in soft fruit production pre-harvest and especially post-harvest. Both fungi cause similar symptoms and, in ripe fruit, rot development is rapid and losses high. The epidemiology of *Mucor* and *Rhizopus* is similar but whereas temperatures below 6°C inhibit the growth of *Rhizopus*, *Mucor* grows and sporulates at these low temperatures as well as it does at higher temperatures. So coolchain marketing is less effective in for controlling this problem. Conventional fungicides are mostly ineffective. This project will develop a sustainable management system for control of the soft rots by first conducting surveys to establish the relative importance of the two fungal species in soft fruit plantations and examining the farm system to identify practices that could encourage soft rot development. The efficacy of alternative chemicals, biocontrol agents and fungicides will be evaluated in the laboratory. In addition the relevance of fruit flies in spreading the disease will also be assessed. The results of these studies will then be used to develop a sustainable management system for control of *Mucor* and *Rhizopus*.

Further information

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

Horticultural Development Company
Tithe Barn
Bradbourne House
East Malling
Kent
ME19 6DZ

Tel: 01732 848 383
Fax: 01732 848 498

The contents of this publication are strictly private to HDC members. No part of this publication may be copied or reproduced in any form or by any means without prior written permission of the Horticultural Development Company.