



Horticultural  
Development  
Company

# New Project

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## SF HNS 112

Evaluation of insecticides and insecticide mixtures for control of adult vine weevil.

**Project Number:** SF HNS 112

**Title:** Evaluation of insecticides and insecticide mixtures for control of adult vine weevil.

**Start and end dates:** 01 April 2010 to 31 March 2011

**Project Leader:** John Buxton and John Atwood

**Project Co-ordinator:** Paul Sopp

**Location:** ADAS Boxworth

**Background and project objectives:**

Despite advances in our understanding of vine weevil biology, this pest continues to be a major problem in both soft fruit and nursery stock. Outbreaks in strawberry and cane fruit such as raspberry can cause serious crop losses, and to control the adults, targeted sprays applied in the evening may be needed. In nursery stock, problems are less marked, because most growers use a compost - incorporated insecticide which controls the larvae, although occasionally "hot spots" of infestation in containerised HNS need to be treated.

The most widely used insecticide for control of adult vine weevil in both soft fruit and nursery stock has been bifenthrin, but this product is not being supported for Annex 1 listing under 91/414/EEC and so will be unavailable to growers after 2011. Moreover, there has been no work on control of the adults since 1995, so it is timely to investigate a range of alternative actives, including some novel insecticides under development.

The aim of this project is to test a range of (mainly) IPM compatible insecticides, under conditions which closely resemble the natural habitat of the weevils, and so are representative of commercial growing conditions. This will be accomplished by using large replicated cages screened with insect mesh, each containing a set number of weevils in a semi-natural habitat. Cages will be examined at intervals after treatment and searched carefully to determine the number of dead, dying or live adults, in order to determine treatment effectiveness.

Further information

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

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