



Horticultural
Development
Company

New Project

TF 181

Exploiting semiochemicals,
conservation biocontrol and
selective physical controls in
integrated management of pear
sucker (HortLINK)

Project Number: TF 181

Title: Exploiting semiochemicals, conservation biocontrol and selective physical controls in integrated management of pear sucker (HortLINK)

Start and end dates: 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2012 (4 years)

Project Leader: Dr Jerry Cross, EMR

Project Co-ordinator: Dr Oliver Doubleday, G H Dean & Co Ltd.

Location: East Malling Research and other Kent farm sites to be confirmed.

Background and project objectives

To develop improved Integrated Pest Management methods for pear sucker which combine:

- 1) sex pheromone monitoring methods for the pest;
- 2) hedgerow/windbreak plants and ground herbage in hedge bottoms and adjacent borders and their management for timely influx of anthocorid predatory bugs, and other the key natural enemies of pear sucker;
- 3) synthetic pear synomones from pear trees infested with pear sucker to attract anthocorids in early spring;
- 4) selective chemical control of pear sucker with sprays of materials that act physically but are not harmful to key natural enemies;
- 5) transfer the results of the research to UK pear growers as part of a wider focus on improving and increasing UK pear production;

The improved methods will provide UK growers with more effective means of control of this devastating pest, reducing reliance on intensive pesticide programmes, safeguarding pear production in a changing climate and making it possible for the UK pear industry to expand its current 14% share of the UK pear market.

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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