

Hardy nursery stock research and development update

Hotel Colessio, 33 Spittal Street, Stirling, Scotland FK8 1DU

13 February 2019

This event will provide delegates with an insight into developments with new growing media blends for use in hardy nursery stock production, along with the latest information on AHDB funded research into weed, vine weevil and foliar disease control options.

Project CP 138: *Transition to responsibly sourced growing media use within UK horticulture*, funded by Defra, AHDB Horticulture and the industry, has been designed to ease the transition from a dependence on peat to the increased uptake of responsibly sourced growing media; primarily bark, wood fibre, coir and green compost throughout horticulture. The transition will be largely achieved by the development of a model to predict the performance of selected raw materials when blended together and to test the performance of these blends in a range of commercially grown crops.

Project HNS 198: *Improving weed control in hardy nursery stock*, with the loss of key herbicides available to the HNS sector, the identification of cost-effective weed control options has become critical. Within this project, a number of products have been tested for both their efficacy and safety on a range of container-grown and field-grown HNS species with the aim of developing improved control programmes.

Project HNS 195: *Improving vine weevil control in HNS*, crop damage and crop rejections due to the presence of vine weevil larvae can have a significant impact on the industry. This project aims to improve best-practice IPM approaches, develop practical methods for monitoring adults in order to detect early infestations and inform control methods, and develop novel approaches to control.

SCEPTREplus: *Foliar disease management*, this cross sector project aims to address industry short-fall issues with regard to crop protection options in horticulture. Updates will be provided on some of the disease work currently underway examining the safety and efficacy of new fungicides for *Botrytis* and downy mildew control on ornamental plant species.

Fertinnowa: *Transfer of INNOvative techniques for sustainable WATER use in FERTigated crops, EU project*. The presentation will summarise the work on efficient water and soluble fertiliser use in the production of nursery stock generated by the project.

Workshop programme

Time	Subject	Speaker
09:30	<i>Refreshments and registration</i>	
10:00	CP 138: Transition to responsibly sourced growing media use in UK horticulture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction, practical aims of the project and implications for industry 	Chloe Whiteside, ADAS
10:15	CP 138: An overview of the hardy nursery stock trials from 2016-2018 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An overview of the work completed on HNS and implications for industry 	Chloe Whiteside, ADAS
11:00	HNS 198: Improving weed control in HNS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Results of the herbicide trials so far undertaken 	David Talbot, ADAS
11:45	<i>Refreshment break</i>	
Time	Subject	Speaker
12:00	HNS 195: Improving vine weevil control on HNS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An update on control of larvae using the 'little and often' nematode application approach, control of adult weevils, control of larvae using cold-tolerant fungi and examination of weevil attractants 	Sonia Newman, ADAS
12:50	Vine weevil larvae control using nematodes applied via overhead irrigation video	AHDB video
13:00	<i>Lunch</i>	
13:30	Calibrating water powered proportional dilutors video	AHDB video
13:40	SCEPTREplus 32: Testing new products to control <i>Botrytis</i> in ferns and other ornamental plants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Results of the screening trials so far undertaken 	Dave Kaye, ADAS
14:00	SCEPTREplus 33: Evaluation of the safety of promising downy mildew fungicide products on ornamentals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Results of the screening trials so far undertaken 	Dave Kaye, ADAS
14:20	Efficient water and soluble fertiliser use in the production of ornamentals, output from EU Fertinnowa project	Georgina Key, AHDB
15:00	Discussion, questions and answers	All
15:15	<i>Close and depart</i>	