



Horticultural  
Development  
Company

# New Project

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## **FV 376**

Baby leaf Cruciferae and  
watercress: leaf miner  
identification, biology and  
control

**Project Number:** FV 376

**Title:** Baby leaf Cruciferae and watercress: leaf miner identification, biology and control

**Start and end dates:** 01/4/10 - 31/3/11

**Project Leader:** Mike Lole

**Project Co-ordinator:**

1. Graham Clarkson, Vitacress Ltd, St Mary Bourne, Hants
2. David Norman, Fresh Produce Consultancy.

**Location:**

1. ADAS Rosemaund, Preston Wynne, Hereford, HR1 3PG
2. Vitacress HQ, St Mary Bourne, Hants

**Background and project objectives:**

In 2009 leaf miner damage caused serious economic losses to producers of baby-leaf Cruciferous crops (e.g. rocket, tatsoi, mizuna) and watercress in central and southern England. The major symptom consisted of multiple small punctures on harvestable leaves, with occasional leaf mines also developing. In severe cases up to 40% of leaves were damaged, causing crop write-off or extra packing costs.

This level of leaf-miner damage is unusual and it is not clear whether the damage was due to a single species or a complex of species. Nor is it known if the cause of damage was the same in all of the crops involved.

The aims of this project are as follows:

1. To identify the species or species complex of leaf miner that is responsible for the recent damage to Cruciferous crops grown for salad consumption
2. To investigate the host range of the leaf miner(s) identified in (1) above, and to determine both the number of generations that occur annually and the duration of each activity period during the year.
3. To conduct a field trial to test treatments aimed at reducing the levels of leaf miner damage in a selected field crop of baby-leaf Crucifer.

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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