

VEGETABLE NEWS

January 2008

- **Assessing the risk from free living nematode**
- **Soil test for clubroot**
- **EU Agricultural Processing and marketing Grant Scheme**
- **Off label update**

Assessing the risk from free living nematodes

Nematodes (often referred to as eelworms) are small microscopic organisms living in the soil. While the majority of nematodes are beneficial, feeding on bacteria, fungi and other soil inhabitants, several species cause damage to plants. These plant parasitic nematodes can be sedentary or migratory (free living).

It is these free living nematodes particularly stubby root nematodes (*Trichodorus* and *Paratrichodorus* spp) and needle nematodes (*Longidorus* spp) which cause damage on carrot and parsnip crops. This is usually exhibited by fanging, or forking, of the root, root branching, or production of stubby short roots

Free-living plant-parasitic nematodes move freely through the soil between feeding. Their movement is affected by soil type and moisture – the lighter the soil the greater the

movement of nematodes provided there is sufficient moisture present. Movement will be restricted in both waterlogged and dry soils.

Unless there is a high population of nematodes, above ground symptoms will not be readily apparent early in the crop's development, but with time and reduction in root system size and function, symptoms become more pronounced.

As the damage nematodes cause to plants increases with the numbers of nematodes present, a soil test for the presence of free living nematodes prior to sowing is advisable. This test, carried out by AFPI, Newforge Lane, will provide an estimate of nematode numbers which will determine the risk of damage to the subsequent carrot or parsnip crop.

Advice regarding treatment will be given based on the levels of nematodes found.

Costs will depend on individual requirements and details can be obtained from Trevor Martin at AFBI - telephone 028 9025 5217.

Soil test for club root

A new test for club root in soils is now available .

EU Agricultural and Forestry Processing and Marketing Grant Scheme

The Processing and Marketing Grant is open to growers and processors in the horticultural industry who, either individually or as a group of producers, wish to improve processing or marketing of their produce.

For example the grant could be used to:-

- Invest in storage and packing facilities to meet market demands
- Improve facilities to add value or to meet increasing customer requirements

- Increase the level of value added processing and prepare new products

To be eligible the applicant must be able to show

1. that the project benefits primary producers from the agricultural or horticultural sector .
2. that they have identified a market outlet for the products of the project
3. that the business is financially viable , that the project will be profitable and that a grant is need for the project to succeed

4. the project must meet one or more of the following objectives

- guide production in line with market trends
- encourage greater collaboration between producers and the rest of the supply chain
- improve uptake of technology /innovation to make the business more competitive
- encourage better use of waste
- encourage development of added value products

items eligible for grant include

- the cost of erecting new buildings or refurbishing old
- installing new equipment (including computer software)

- the cost of a business plan or feasibility study

Further information and an application form is available on the

DARD website – www.dardni.gov.uk (select Grants and Funding). Alternatively these can be obtained by contacting Rural Development Division 028 9052 4880.

Off label Update

The following relevant off label approvals have been issued since the December 2007

	Active ingredient	Use	Crop	Off label number
Defy	prosulfocarb	weed control	carrot, parsnip	3774/07
Defy	prosulfocarb	weed control	bulb onion	3775/07
Defy	prosulfocarb	weed control	leek	3776/07
Defy	prosulfocarb	weed control	scallions	0085/08
Centium	clomazone	weed control	calabrese, cabbage, cauliflower, sprouts	0087/08
Centium	clomazone	weed control	broad bean	0088/08

Joan Hamilton
Edible Crops Development Adviser
Greenmount Campus, College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise

Telephone (office) 028 9442 6683

Mobile number 077 7575 7251

