



Report of the Control Strategies Subgroup online meeting on 30 April 2021

CHAIRMAN: Bert Evenhuis

1. *PHYTOPHTHORA* BLIGHT

1.1 Changes to the fungicide efficacy table: leaf blight

The table was last updated on 23 March 2020. No updates are expected in 2021.

1.2 Leaf blight efficacy ratings trials

There will be three trials in 2021 (in Denmark, UK and The Netherlands).

1.3 Dealing with the impending loss of approval for mancozeb in Europe – implications for the trials to rate efficacy against leaf blight

The current reference treatment is mancozeb. This treatment is rated 2 on the 2 to 5 scale and is the reference used in the calculation so far of all the ratings for test fungicides. The impending loss of approval of mancozeb in Europe has implications for the continued use of this active as the reference treatment. There was detailed discussion of this topic and five options were put forward and discussed.

Ideally the replacement reference treatment should have:

- a low efficacy rating (similar to mancozeb) so that the magnitude of the disease challenge in individual trials can be discerned, i.e. high or low risk. This is to avoid the over- or under-estimation in the rating process.
- only contact activity
- activity at multiple target sites
- been included in several EuroBlight fungicide rating trials prior to 2021

Option 1 Keep mancozeb as the reference for as long as possible but start in 2021 to identify a suitable alternative (in preparation for the year that mancozeb is no longer an option).

The reasons for continuing with mancozeb were:

- it is the best option for continuity because it avoids any issues with the validity of ratings obtained using different actives as the references
- as a multi-site active, it avoids any future issues with the development of fungicide resistance
- it was agreed at the previous meeting of this subgroup (15 May 2019 in York) that mancozeb would remain the reference treatment using trial permits and product imported into the EU as necessary.

Option 1 was accepted for the short term.

Option 2: A contact fungicide with an efficacy comparable to mancozeb, or lower

Three actives with contact and multi-site activity were suggested, i.e. metiram, folpet and captan. Metiram and folpet are not registered on potatoes in The Netherlands. The same is true for these two actives plus captan in the UK (information provided after the meeting).

Fluazinam was also suggested because of its inclusion in previous trials and its relatively low rating of 2.9. However, it was not considered suitable because of known issues with less-sensitive genotypes in some locations.

Option 2 was not accepted for the short term but is to be evaluated as a longer-term solution. In the trials in 2021 there will be two references, i.e. mancozeb plus one of the potential substitutes (yet to be decided). It is not possible financially to evaluate multiple alternatives to mancozeb at each site.

Options 3 to 5 described below were not accepted for the short or longer term.

Option 3: use the season-long untreated

One advantage is that there has been an untreated in all trials to date. However, there could be a scaling problem.

Option 4: A reduced rate of a higher-rated fungicide so that the rating of this alternative reference was close to the 2.0 for mancozeb.

This was rejected because of potential future issues with insensitivity.

Option 5: A biological control agent

1.4 Changes to the fungicide efficacy table: tuber blight

There have been no updates since the EuroBlight workshop in May 2019 and no changes are expected in 2021.

1.5 Tuber blight efficacy ratings trials

There will be no trials in 2021.

1.6 Dealing with the impending loss of approval for mancozeb in Europe – implications for the trials to rate the control of tuber blight

With the future loss of approval of mancozeb in Europe can this fungicide continue to be the reference or is a substitute required? The need for a substitute is less pressing because there are no tuber blight efficacy trials this year. The consensus view was that mancozeb should be retained as the reference for as long as possible but effort should be made to identify a replacement, starting in 2022. The untreated control is not an option, principally because for fungicide-free plots the foliar epidemic is too rapid and therefore the number of tuber infection events is considerably reduced compared with the significantly slower foliar epidemics in fungicide-treated plots.

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3 May 21