Edition #21 December 2024

NEWSLETTER

EUROPEAN MINOR USES COORDINATION FACILITY

Minor uses, major importance.

TOP NEWS

WINTER EDITION

By the MUCF team

DEAR MUCF COMMUNITY

As the Winter holidays and the end of the year 2024 draw near, the European Minor Uses Coordination Facility (MUCF) extends its warmest wishes for a joyous holiday season and a prosperous start to 2025.

READ MORE

As we reflect on the achievements and challenges of 2024, we look forward to a fruitful and collaborative 2025. This 21st newsletter edition highlights key updates, reports from the MUCF Autumn 2024 Expert Group meetings, and an overview of upcoming events. We hope you find it both informative and engaging.

Warm regards,
The MUCF Team

MUCF SPRING MEETINGS 2025

The MUCF Spring 2025 meetings will take place online. Below is the provisional schedule, though times may be adjusted as details are finalized:

CEGS, REEG AND HEG SPRING 2025 MEETING SCHEDULE

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

CEG Fruits & Vegetables: March 18, 2025 | 09:00 – 17:00

CEG Herbs & Spices: March 19, 2025 | 09:00 – 17:00

CEG Tobacco: March 20, 2025 | 09:30 – 16:30

CEG Hops: March 26, 2025 | 09:00 – 16:30

CEG Ornamentals: March 27, 2025 | 09:30 – 16:30

Horizontal Expert Group (HEG): April 8, 2025 | 09:00 – 12:00

Residues Expert Group (ReEG): April 8, 2025 | 14:00 – 17:00

CEG Seeds: April 10, 2025 | 09:00 – 12:30

CEG Mushrooms: The next meeting will be held in Autumn.

CEG Rice: The chair position for this group is still vacant. No meetings are planned until this post is filled.

Further details and final agendas will be shared in due course.

We look forward to your participation in these meetings!

MUCF AUTUMN MEETINGS 2024

SOME HIGHLIGHTS

From **October 29th to 31st**, the MUCF Expert Group meetings took place in Budapest, gathering minor uses specialists from across Europe.

Key points from each group, along with participation overview and updates on the current Chair(s) and co-Chair(s), are provided hereafter.

These expert groups continue to play a pivotal role in addressing minor use challenges, driving collaboration, and advancing crop protection solutions for minor uses in Europe.

Follow the MUCF on LinkedIn to stay up-to-date with the latest MUCF updates and upcoming events.
#MinorUsesMajorImportance and #LetsTalkAbout MinorUses

SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE AUTUMN 2024 MEETINGS

HEG: ONGOING INITIATIVES

October 29, 2024

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New Chair: Mr **Rauno Aljas** (EE).

Sincere thanks were expressed to the resigning Chair, Ms Johansen-Hladilova (NO), for her leadership from Spring 2021 to Autumn 2024.

The MUCF updated the experts on two ongoing projects, conducted together with consultants:

- Drafting of an **abridged dRR part A template**, dedicated to simplifying the application following Art. 51 of Reg. 1107/2009 (Extension of authorisation for minor uses).
- Proposal for a **common European minor crop or major crop definition**. A unified approach to defining these categories is being discussed.

Ms **Lotte Huisman** (NL) presented the Dutch National Procedure (NLKUG), which facilitates the extension of authorization for low-risk products for minor uses. The Dutch competent authority (CTGB), has developed an expedited administrative procedure to streamline the authorization process for minor uses of low-risk products.

Presentation given by Ms Lotte Huisman (NL) on low-risk PPPs.

October 29, 2024

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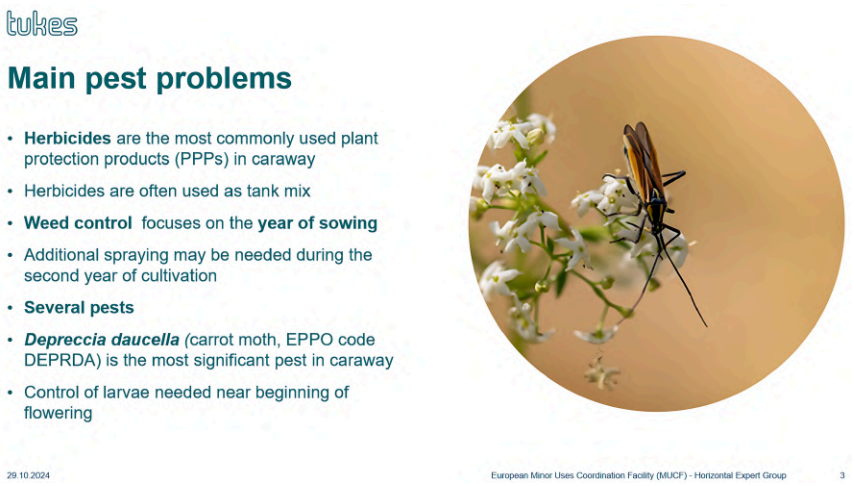
New co-Chair: Ms **Tiia Mäkinen-Töykkä** (FI).
Gratitude was expressed to the resigning Chair, Mr Jose-Luis Alonso-Prados (ES), and Co-Chair, Mr Karsten Hohgardt (DE), for their work since the group's establishment in 2022.
Chair Position: Currently vacant.

Key Updates on Extrapolation Proposals:

Residue experts were updated on the evaluation of extrapolation proposals for residue data, submitted to the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed (SCoPAFF):

- The proposal for extrapolation from **edible flowers to herbal infusions** has been approved by SCoPAFF, though the decision has not yet been published.
- Extrapolation from **horseradish to wasabi** is under consideration.
- The leaves of '**small radishes**' (*Raphanus sativus*, EPPO Code RAPSR) have been reclassified and are now included in the MRL commodity group of **Roman rocket/rucola.**

The experts also discussed the issue encountered by the Finnish **caraway** (*Carum carvi*, EPPO Code CRYCA) production sector. With over 20 000 hectares dedicated to caraway cultivation, Finland is the world's second-largest producer. Caraway seeds are used as spices, as well as aromatic oils for cosmetics and medicine. To expand the availability of plant protection products for pest control in caraway, a proposal has been made to allow extrapolation from **rapeseed (a major crop) to caraway**, without the need for additional residue data. This proposal, along with a supporting position paper, will be presented at the SCoPAFF residue meeting on November 25/26, 2024, by Finland and Germany. We will keep you informed about further developments



Presentation given by Ms Tiia Mäkinen-Töykkä (FI) on caraway.

CEG FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

October 30, 2024

30

New co-Chair: Ms **Alice McGlynn** (IE); Fuits session
The MUCF expressed gratitude to the resigning co-Chair, Ms Vitore Shala-Mayrhofer (AT), for her dedicated contributions.
co-Chair: Theodora Nikolopoulou (GR); Vegetables session
co-Chair: Peter Hartvig (DK); Weeds session

Tackling the Green Shield Bug (*Nezara viridula*):

Experts spotlighted the growing threat of *Nezara viridula* (green shield bug, EPPO Code NEZAVI), an invasive pest native to South-East Asia. With its ability to feed on over 150 host plants, this highly polyphagous insect is expanding its range in Europe and the United States, where it caused an estimated 50 million USD in losses to US apple orchards in 2018.

Key Discussion Points:

- Understanding the Pest: Presentations provided insights into the biology, spread, and host range of *Nezara viridula.*
- Monitoring Efforts: Ongoing surveillance projects, such as those conducted in Austria (2023–2024), are critical. Learn more about these efforts https://warndienst.lko.at/ (in German language).
- Control Options:

1. Chemical control solutions: Products such as Deltamethrin and Acetamiprid.
2. Biological control solutions: Promising agents such as *Trissolcus basalis* (EPPO code TRSSBA). More information about the parasitoid can be found in the "Southern green stink bug egg parasitoid" fact sheet.

- Trapping Techniques: Innovative artificially heated trap technique were also presented by Mr **Gábor Bozsik** (HU).

The group underscored the urgent need for collaboration to develop and implement effective management strategies to combat *Nezara viridula*. it was then decided to bring together european experts to work on this issue.
If you are interested in contributing to this initiative, we invite you to contact us at: am@minoruses.eu.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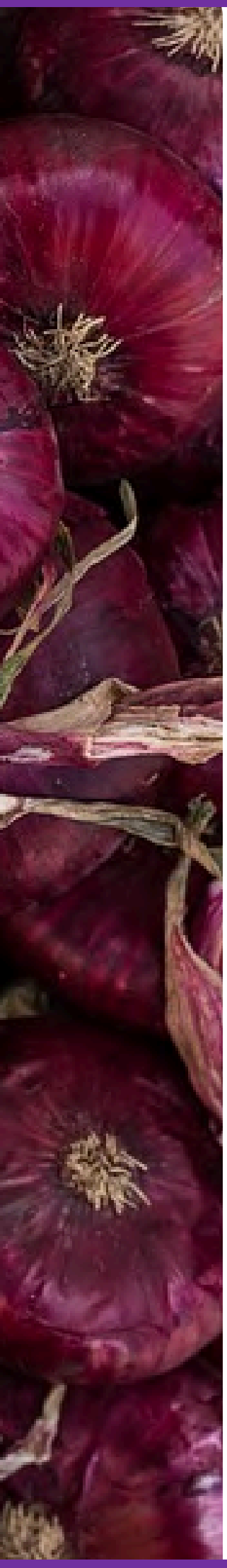


Spirotetramat:

A recent survey conducted by the MUCF, among experts explored potential alternatives to replace Spirotetramat, a systemic insecticide widely used to control various pests across multiple crops. Notably, Spirotetramat approval expired on April 30, 2024.

Key findings from the Survey:

- Expert Participation: 36 experts from 19 countries responded.
- Lack of Alternatives: 19 out of 36 respondents reported no viable substitutes for Spirotetramat in at least one pest-crop combination.

Particularly on woolly aphids and scale insects on fruit crops, alternatives are seldomly available.

- Identified alernatives: The following substances were suggested as possible replacements (the number of times they were mentioned is listed in brackets):

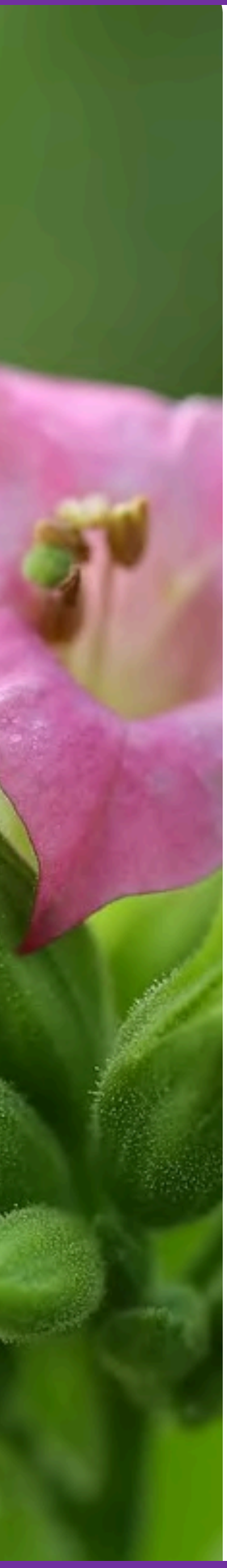
Flonicamid (17)	Acetamiprid (13)	Azadirachtin (Neem) (7)
Pirimicarb (6)	Pyrethrins (6)	Fatty Acids (5)
Paraffin oil/Mineral oils (5)	Flupyradifurone (5)	Deltamethrin (5)

To gain further insights into Spirotetramat, please refer to the following resources:

- European Commission, 'Review report for the active substance Spirotetramat'.
- EFSA Journal, 'Conclusion on the peer review of the pesticide risk assessment of the active substance Spirotetramat'.

Sustainable new weed management option:

In addition, Mr **Klaus Harter** (DE) from Tübingen University (Germany) presented ongoing research into 7-Deoxy-sedoheptulose (7-dSh), a potential organic alternative to Glyphosate. Produced by the cyanobacterium *Synechococcus elongatus* (blue-green algae), 7-dSh works on the same metabolic pathway (shikimate pathway) as Glyphosate, offering promising prospects for sustainable weed management in the future.



CEG FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Weed Control in Onion Crops:

Mr **Peter Hartvig** (DK) provided an update on a survey conducted by Euronion, a network of European onion-growing countries established in 1996. For more information, visit Euronion's website.

The presentation focused on the current landscape of weed control in onion cultivation and highlighted the following key points:

- Active Substances in Use: Over 100 active substances are registered for use on and in onion crops in Europe, with **26** of these being **herbicides**. In practice, approximately 12 herbicides are actually used.
- Frequency of Weed Control: Onion crops require a minimum of 5 to 8 treatments per year for effective weed management.
- Commonly Used Herbicides: The most frequently applied herbicides include Pendimethalin, Aclonifen, Pyridat, and Fluroxypyr.

EURONION
European Onion Association

CEG TOBACCO

October 30, 2024

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Chair: Martina Cappelletti (IT)
New co-Chair: Ms **Esther Verdejo** (ES).
Appreciation was expressed to the resigning co-Chair, Ms Walburga Schwär (DE), for her contributions since Spring 2020.

Tobacco experts were updated on several projects launched by CORESTA (Cooperation Centre for Scientific Research Relative to Tobacco) regarding:

- Agrochemicals requirements and residue field trials.
- Residue field trials.
- Efficacy of biological products.

The experts discussed the current statistics on tobacco production in Europe and reviewed the available plant protection solutions for tobacco cultivation.

Moreover, the experts of the CEG have drafted a list of available PPPs in tobacco cultivation. This list is now available for the CEG Tobacco experts on the MUCF extranet.

CEG ORNAMENTALS: KEY UPDATES ON DATABASE AND RESEARCH

October 31, 2024

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Chair: Laurent Jacob (FR)
New co-Chair: Mr **Niels Enggaard Klausen** (DK) was appointed as co-Chair of CEG Ornamentals in Spring 2024.

During the meeting, two valuable databases created by the University of Hertfordshire (GB), were introduced:

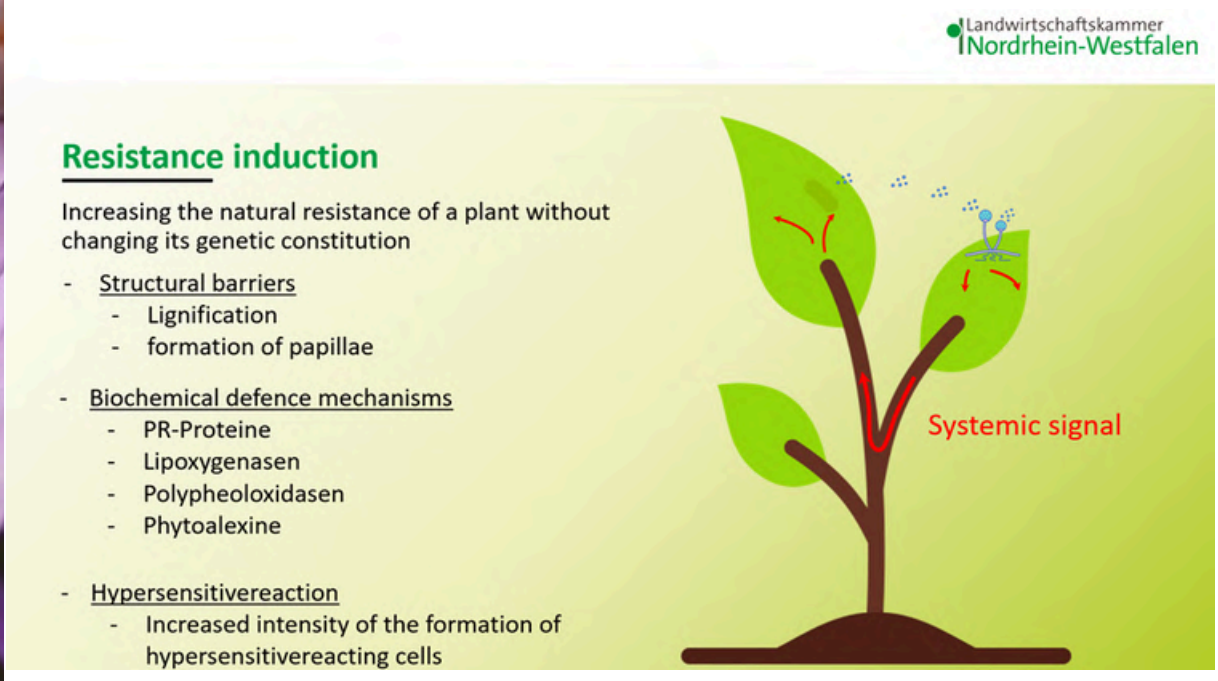
- Bio-Pesticides DataBase: This resource provides a comprehensive overview of authorized biological plant protection products in Europe, along with detailed information on targeted crops and pests.

To access this database click here.

- Pesticide Properties DataBase: A comprehensive relational database containing chemical identity, physicochemical properties, human health, and ecotoxicological data for pesticides.

To access this database click here.

Additionally, ornamentals experts were briefed on ongoing research in Germany, specifically on trials conducted on plant elicitors as a means of combating powdery mildew (*Erysiphe aquilegiae*) and botrytis (*Botrytis cinerea*). Plant elicitors are compounds that stimulate and enhance plants' natural resistance mechanisms, helping their defence against various pests and diseases.



Presentation given by Ms Elisabeth Götte (DE) on plant elicitors.

CEG MUSHROOMS

October 24, 2024 (online)

13

Chair: Margarita Pérez (ES)
co-Chair: Réjane Mazier (FR)
co-Chair: Nancy Pick (BE)

Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs) for Mepiquat and Chlormequat:
The experts reviewed the established maximum residue levels (MRLs) for Mepiquat and Chlormequat, two active substances that can be found in cultivated mushrooms due to transfer from straw used as a growing substrate. To mitigate this issue, an increasing number of mushroom growers are now opting for organically certified wheat-based substrates.
The European Pesticide Residue and Maximum Residue Levels database states the following: 'Monitoring data show that cross-contamination of untreated cultivated fungi may occur with straw lawfully treated with Mepiquat or Chlormequat.'

Control of Sciarid Flies (*Sciaridae*):
The experts discussed the use of fogging as a method for controlling sciarid flies (EPPO Code: 1SCIAF), a common pest in mushroom cultivation. Strategies for optimizing fogging techniques to achieve the best control results were explored.

New MUCF Webpage:
The MUCF has launched a newly updated webpage dedicated to mushroom production and protection in Europe. This resource provides comprehensive information on the mushroom sector, including detailed insights into the key pests affecting mushrooms, along with their identification features and biological cycles.
For more details on sciarid flies and other relevant resources, please visit the updated MUCF CEG Mushroom webpage.

CREDIT: *T. Rousseau*

Information example for DACYDE provided on the MUCF webpage.

The MUCF is committed to establishing a dedicated page for each working group by the end of 2025.

CEG HOPS: LEAF WALL AREA (LWA) AND ONGOING RESEARCH

October 31, 2024

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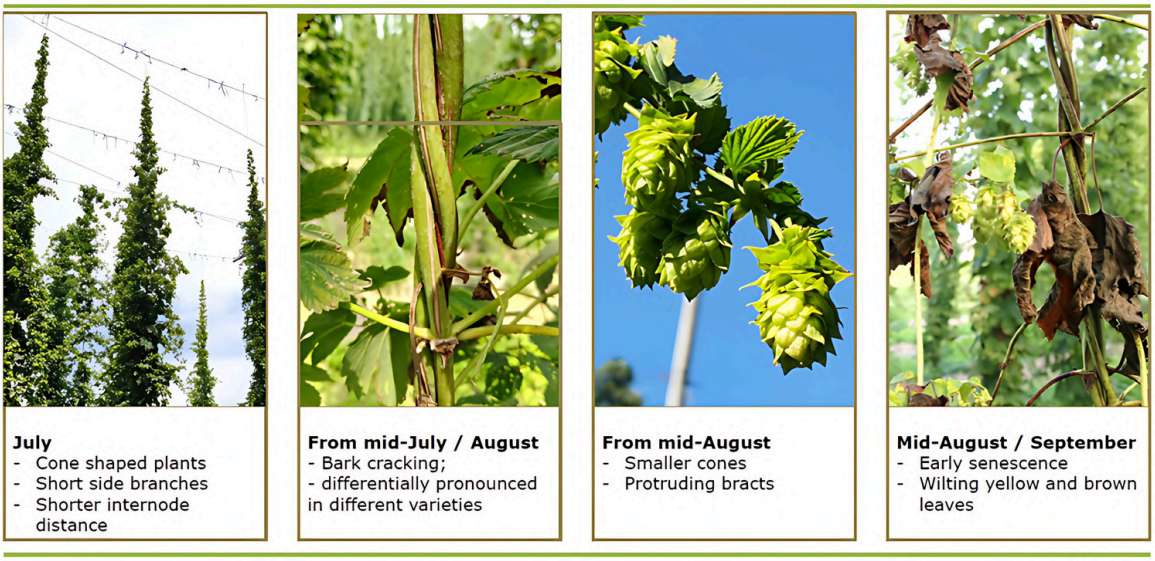
Chair: Magda Rak-Cizej (SI)
co-Chair: Simon Euringer (DE)

The Hops Expert Group focused on the implementation of the Leaf Wall Area (**LWA**), an approach that will replace the current EU system for expressing the dose rate of plant protection products (PPP) used on crops. This change will shift from a 2-dimensional reference value (hectares) to a 3-dimensional reference value, based on the area of the canopy, crown, or foliage surface relative to the ground area.
For further details on the LWA, please refer to the EPPO Standard PP 1/239 (3) 'Dose expression for plant protection products'.
The page also gives access to a downloadable dose converter.

In addition, the group discussed ongoing research in Germany regarding **Verticillium wilt**, a serious threat to hops. The results of the project will be available in 2026.
The experts also provided updates on the monitoring efforts surrounding **Citrus Bark Cracking Viroid** (CBCVd) *(Cocadviroid rimocitri*). CBCVd is primarily spread through contact via cutting tools, cultivation techniques, plant residues, and compost, leading to significant yield losses and a range of damaging symptoms in hops.

Symptoms caused by CBCVd in hops



Images: LfL

Presentation given by Mr Simon Euringer (DE) on the CBCVd on hops.

CEG HERBS AND SPICES

October 30, 2024

12

Chair: Claire Donkin (GB)
co-Chair: Hans van der Mheen (NL)

Herbs and Spices experts were presented with important updates on two key topics:

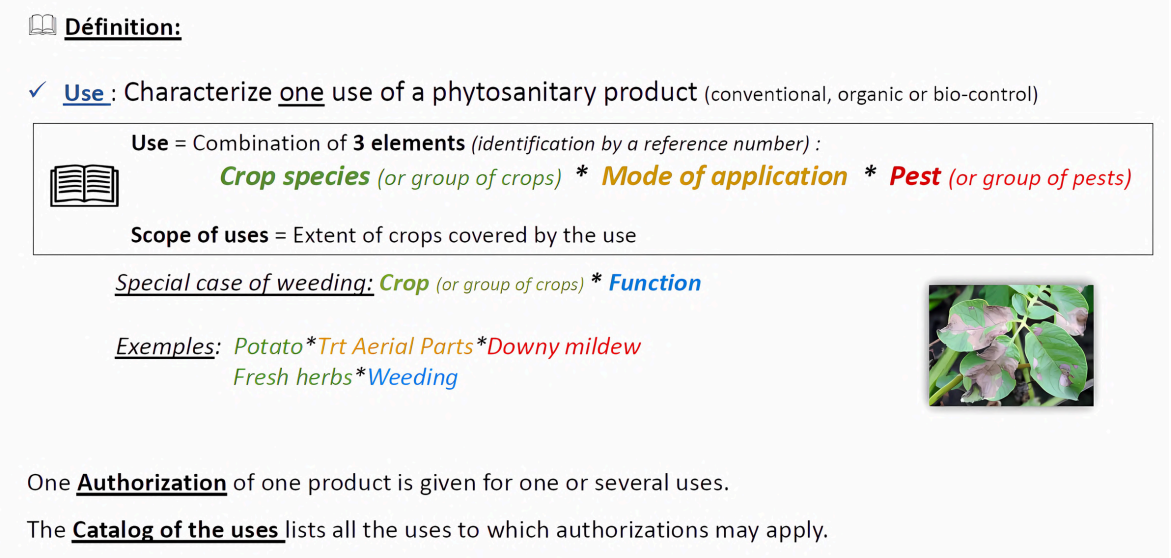
Pyrrolizidine Alkaloids:

Mr **Denis Bellenot** (FR) from ITEIPMAI, the French research organization for perfume, medicinal, and aromatic plants, updated on the potential health risks of pyrrolizidine alkaloids. Exposure to these compounds, particularly among frequent and high intake consumers of tea and herbal infusions, poses a long-term health concern due to their potential carcinogenicity (EFSA, 27 July 2017). In response, EUROPAM (the European Herb Growers Association) has initiated data collection to support a formal request to the European Commission for a revision of current regulations. The findings will be presented to DG Sante for further consideration.

French Catalogue of Uses:

Ms **Anne Chapelle** (FR) presented the construction of the French Catalogue of Uses an official document designed to characterize the use of plant protection products in France. The Catalogue aims to:

1. Simplify the situation for plant protection authorisation.
2. Ensure consistency with Reg. 396/2005 (residues) and Reg. 1107/2009 (authorisations for plant protection products).
3. Allow for flexibility in adapting to new crops, pests, uses, and application methods.



Example of the construction of the French Catalogue of Uses.

CEG SEEDS: EXPLORING THE HUNGARIAN SEED INDUSTRY AND BRIEFING ON REGULATIONS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

October 31, 2024

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Chair: Gea Bouwman (NL)
co-Chair: Amalia Kafka (BE)

Mr **Gábor Polgár** (HU) of the Hungarian Seed Association gave a presentation to the CEG. Established in 1993, the Hungarian Seed Association is a non-profit organization representing approximately 1200 members, including breeders, multipliers, seed processors, and distributors.

The primary objectives of the Association include:

- Defending the interests of the seed industry.
- Representing the sector to public administration.
- Contributing to the development of seed-related legislation.
- Maintaining information management systems for its members.

Vetőmag Szövetség
SZAKMAKÖZI SZERVEZET ÉS TERMÉKTANÁCS

With a market valued at over 400 million Euros annually, Hungary ranks among the top ten seed-producing countries globally. For more details about the Association, visit the Hungarian Seed Association website.

Additionally, experts were briefed by Ms **Kim Parker** (GB) on current legislation regarding seed treatment and import regulations in the United Kingdom, and it was noted that distinct rules apply for Northern Ireland and Great Britain:

- Northern Ireland: Seeds treated with a plant protection product that has an authorization in at least one EU Member State may be imported, marketed, and used.
- Great Britain: Treated seeds may be imported, marketed, and used until June 30, 2027, provided the plant protection product is authorized for use in at least one EU Member State, in accordance with the 'Plant Protection Products (Miscellaneous Amendments) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019.'

Full legislation details can be accessed here.

>>> EUMUDA UPDATES

The MUCF conducted a survey to update the EUMUDA Table of Needs. The responses have been incorporated in the database. New information is highlighted with an updated time stamp for clarity.
We encourage you to review the Table of Needs to access detailed information on the **most urgent crop protection needs across Europe**. The table serves to identify gaps in crop protection solutions and prioritize these needs based on their significance among European countries.

Below are the **top 10 prioritised** needs currently identified in Europe:

1. *Drosophila suzuki*i (spotted wing drosophila) on raspberry.
2. *Drosophila suzukii* (spotted wing drosophila) on strawberry.
3. *Peronospora destructor* (downy mildew) on onion.
4. *Delia radicum* (cabbage root fly) on white cabbage.
5. *Chamaepsila rosae* (carrot fly) on carrot.
6. *Drosophila suzukii* (spotted wing drosophila) on sweet cherry.
7. *Delia antiqua* (onion fly) on onion.
8. *Drosophila suzukii* (spotted wing drosophila) on blueberry.
9. *Fusarium oxysporum* (basal rot) on onion.
10. *Tetranychus urticae* (two-spotted spider mite) on raspberry.

>>> RECENT PPP AUTHORISATIONS ACCROSS EUROPE AND THE UNITED KINGDOM

- **Spirotetramat** (United Kingdom): Authorised for use on sweet corn to control *Sitobion avenae, Metopolophium dirhodum*, and *Rhopalosiphum padi* (MACSAV, METODR, RHOPPA).
- **Flonicamid** (United Kingdom): Authorised for use on carrots to control *Cavariella aegopodii, Myzus persicae, Trioza apicalis,* and *Bactericera trigonica* (CAVAAE, MYZUPE, TRIZAP, BCTCTR).
- **Flonicamid** (Germany): Authorised for use on kale, celery, small radishes, and black Spanish radishes to control aphids.
- **Acetamiprid** (Hungary): Authorised for use on walnuts to control *Rhagoletis completa* (RHAGCO).

For comprehensive information regarding PPP (Plant Protection Product) authorisation in the United Kingdom, please visit the British Crop Production Council (BCPC) website. Their "New Products and Approvals" newsletter offers detailed updates. Access the newsletter through the following link: BCPC Latest News.

>>> UPCOMING EVENTS

11th Plant Protection and Plant Health International Symposium (PPPHI)

- Theme: Scientific Innovations and Regulatory Challenges in Biocontrol
- Date: **February 18–19, 2025**
- Location: Braunschweig, Germany

Registration is open until January 31st, 2025. For more details and registration links, visit https://ppphi.plant-protection.net/

Annual Eastern Europe Regulatory Conference

- Theme: Digital Transformation, Biopesticides Regulation, Stakeholder Engagement, Harmonization of Data Requirements and Mutual Recognition.
- Date: **April 8–9, 2025**
- Location: Zagreb, Croatia

For more details and registration links, visit https://www.legera.eu/events/

14th Conference of the European Foundation for Plant Pathology

- Theme: The EFPP promotes scientific and technical cooperation in the arena of plant health in Europe and facilitates the exchange of scientific information between plant pathologists who are members of national or regional Societies in the field of plant pathology or related fields.
- Date: **June 2–5, 2025**
- Location: Uppsala, Sweden

For more details and registration links, visit https://www.efpp2025.com/

Buckwheat (*Fagopyrum esculentum* Moench.) as an emerging companion crop in annual cropping systems: a systematic review.

Virili, A., Marusig, D., Delle Vedove, G., & Marraccini, E. Italian Journal of Agronomy (2024) https://doi.org/10.4081/ija.2024.2218

Abstract: Sustainable intensification is considered an efficient alternative to conventional agriculture to feed a growing population while maintaining and benefitting the environment. Intercropping is one of the most studied practices to obtain production gains and other ecosystem services. Most intercrops involve legumes and cereals, but other species combinations should be explored to further increase the diversity of intercropping systems. Buckwheat (*Fagopyrum esculentum* Moench.; *Polygonaceae*) is an **emerging minor crop** which is gaining attention in alternative intercropping systems. This review provides a comprehensive view of the state of the art on the role of buckwheat as a companion crop in arable cropping systems. Despite buckwheat being well-known for its weed-suppressive ability, **intercropping using buckwheat for weed control** has received little attention. Few crops have so far been considered in relation to the introduction of buckwheat in annual cropping systems. This review uncovers a largely untapped research field involving buckwheat. The research perspectives are multiple as buckwheat consumption is increasing and its attractive flower resources and rapid growth offer the provision of several agro-ecosystem services that directly and indirectly benefit **crop yield stability.**

STAY IN CONTACT:

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HAPPY NEW YEAR AND SEE YOU IN 2025!