

ALTERNATIVE CONTROL PRODUCTS FOR APPLE SCAB

The number of conventional fungicide products (Figure 1) authorised on apple for scab (Figures 2 and 3) control is diminishing and alternatives are needed that lend themselves to IPDM programmes and organic production. British Apples & Pears Ltd and Horticulture Crop Protection Ltd funded NIAB to manage a screening trial to test the efficacy of a range of alternative products.

The list included bacterial biocontrol products, inorganic compounds, plant elicitors and a plant elicitor/metal compound. They were compared to the conventional fungicides captan and difenoconazole (Difference), along with an untreated control.

Potted trees, under protection (Figure 4) to avoid natural scab infection, were artificially inoculated a day before or a day after the tree had been treated with the test products.

One plant elicitor/metal compound appeared to have efficacy both pre- and post-inoculation. One plant elicitor showed efficacy pre-inoculation and an inorganic compound reduced scab post-inoculation. Further work is needed to test the products over a season in orchard conditions to assess their potential efficacy.

Figure 1. Conventional fungicide products are diminishing in number



Figure 2. Typical symptoms of scab on leaf



Figure 3. Typical symptoms of scab on fruit



Figure 4. Potted trees were held under protection to avoid natural scab infection



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