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## Tuber blight control: effect of foliar applied fungicides such as Infinito on viability of sporangia of *Phytophthora infestans*

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# How to Control Tuber Blight ?

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## 1) Reduction of sporulation



## 2) Spores + product are washed off together: direct sporicide effect

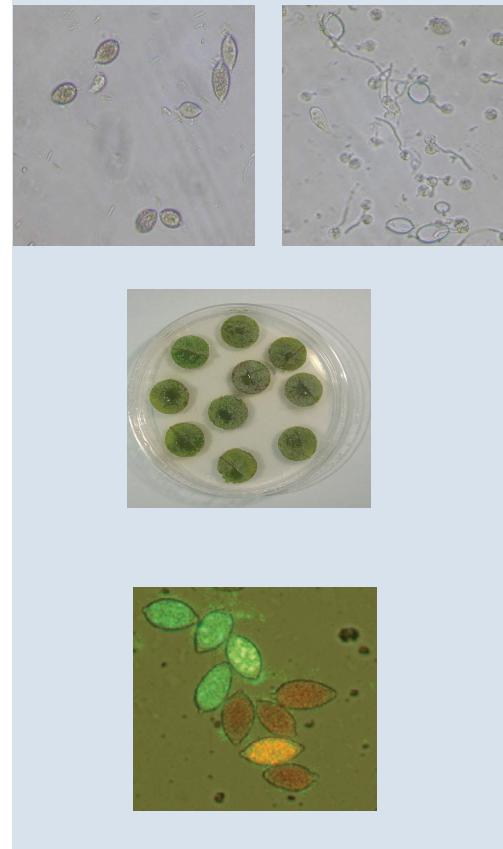


## 3) Newly formed sporangia are affected in their viability : inoculum less infectious



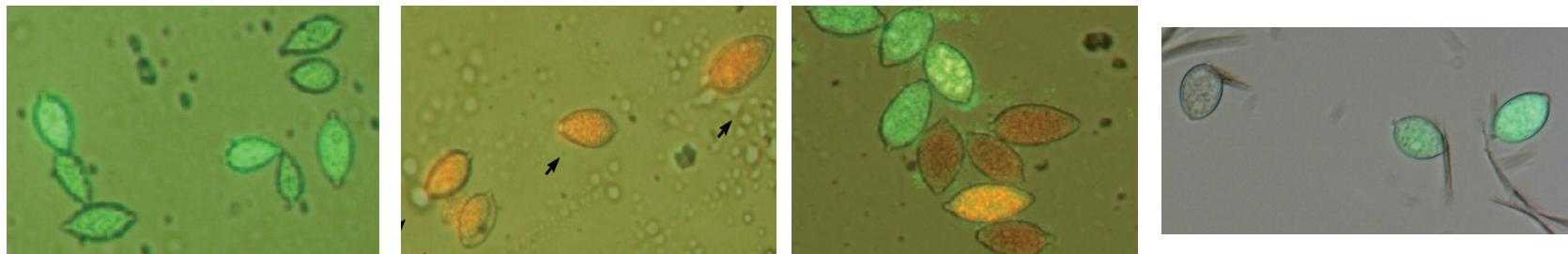
# Methods for Viability Evaluation

- ▶ *In vitro sporangia germination test in aqueous media*
  
- ▶ *On planta sporangia infectivity test on foliar discs or tuber slices*
  
- ▶ Sporangia viability (vital staining)



A rapid Live/dead viability test using fluorescent fluorochromes developed / validated

# Live/ dead Viability Test Comparison



FDA fluoresces bright green in viable spores / PI fluoresces red-orange in non viable spores under blue light

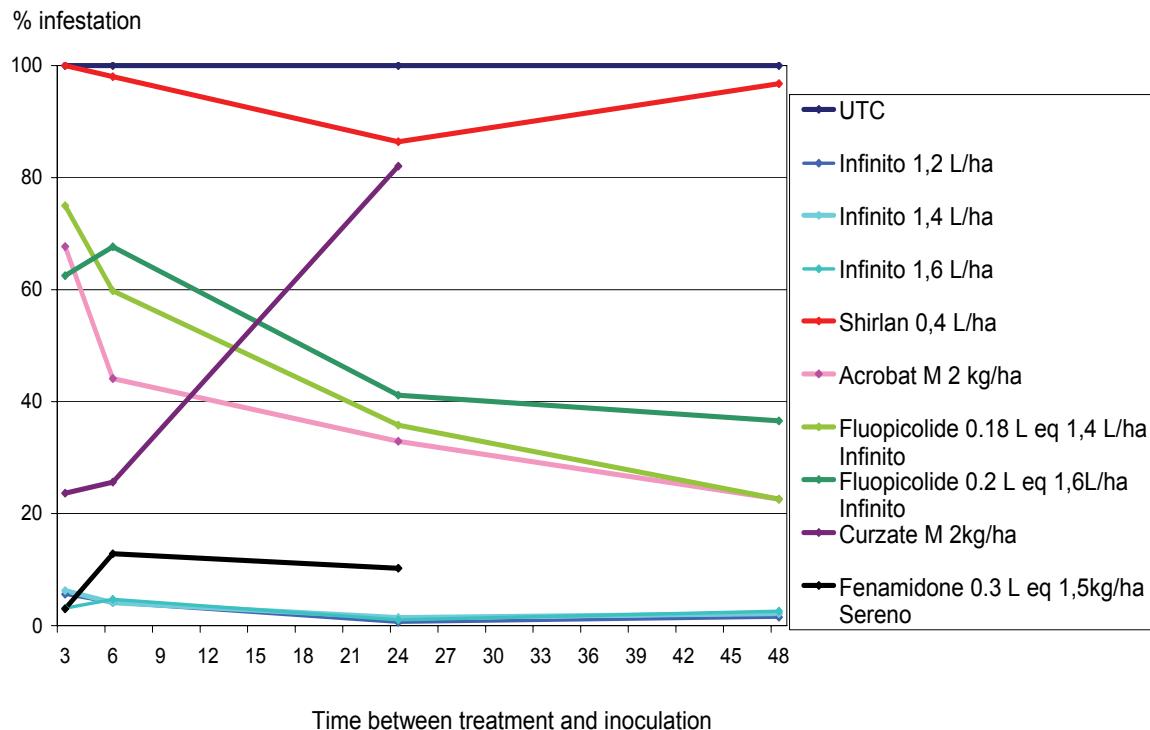
Advantage / disadvantage using FDA alone or in mixture Kit (FDA/PI)

- Live /dead viability Kit formulation stable for observation all day long // FDA alone
- PI is a potential mutagen: handle with appropriate caution



**No significant differences detected between FDA alone and Kit (FDA+PI)  
Ratio Alive/dead sporangia depends on time of sporangia harvest in relation to beginning of sporulation and also links to the ability of products to reduce sporulation**

# Translaminar Activity (% infestation)

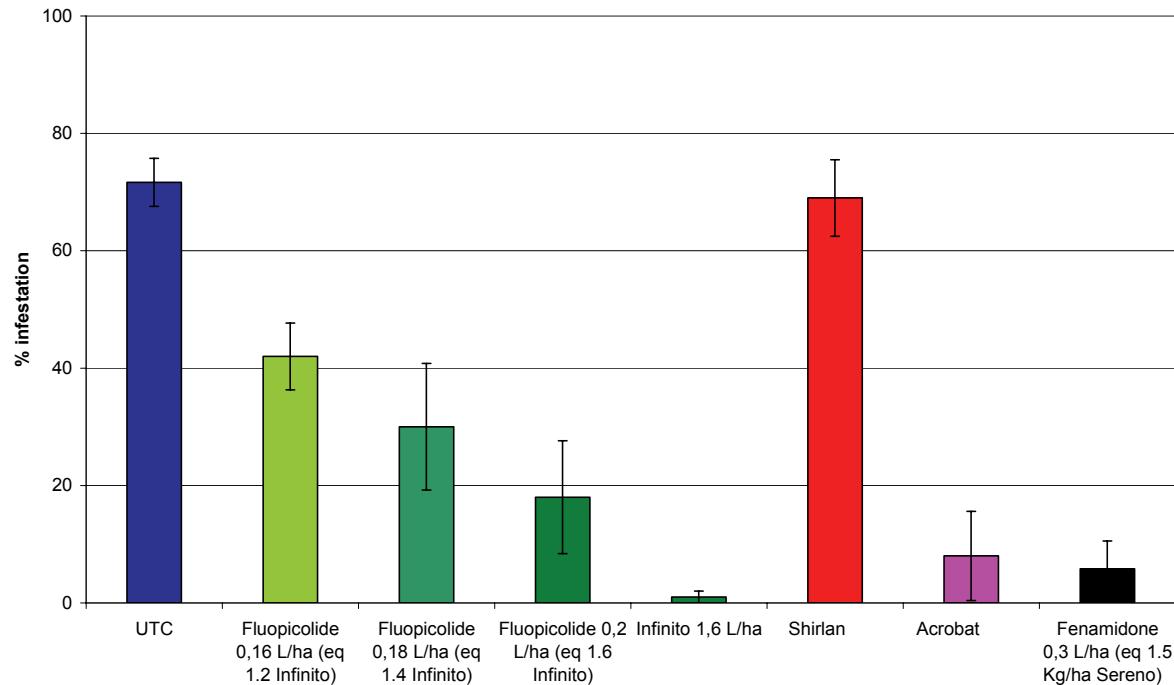


- Strong translaminar activity of Infinito
- Good translaminar effect of fluopicolide and dimethomorph with kinetic response
- Rapid penetration of fenamidone
- Quick penetration cymoxanil but short persistency due to quick metabolism

# Translaminar Activity (% infestation)

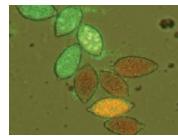
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Translaminar effect of fungicides with 24 h interval between preventive treatment and inoculation



- ▶ Fluopicolide translaminar activity with clear dose response
- Infinito strong translaminar profile within 24 hours after treatment
- Sporangia for secondary infection could not be harvested for Infinito

# Sporangia Viability by Vital Staining

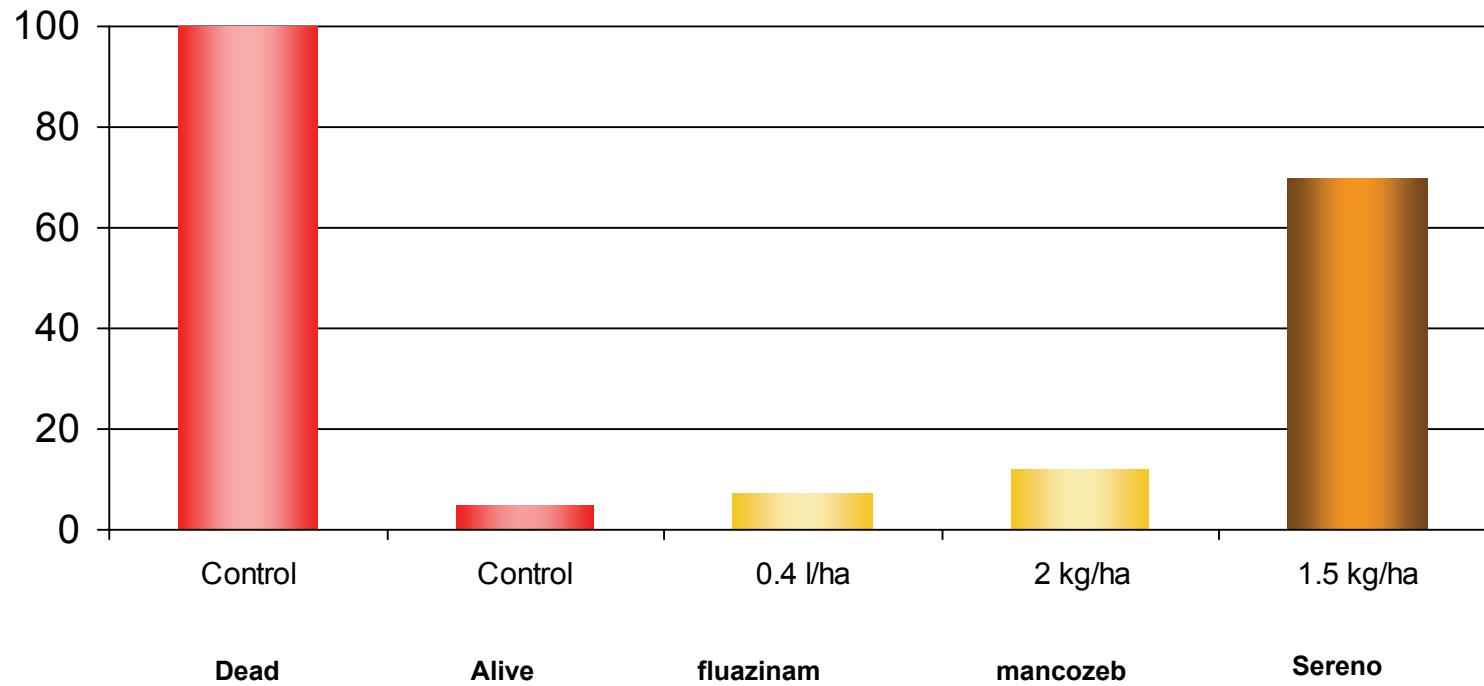


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Dead sporangia (%) by viable staining 7 days after inoculation ( 48h, preventative)

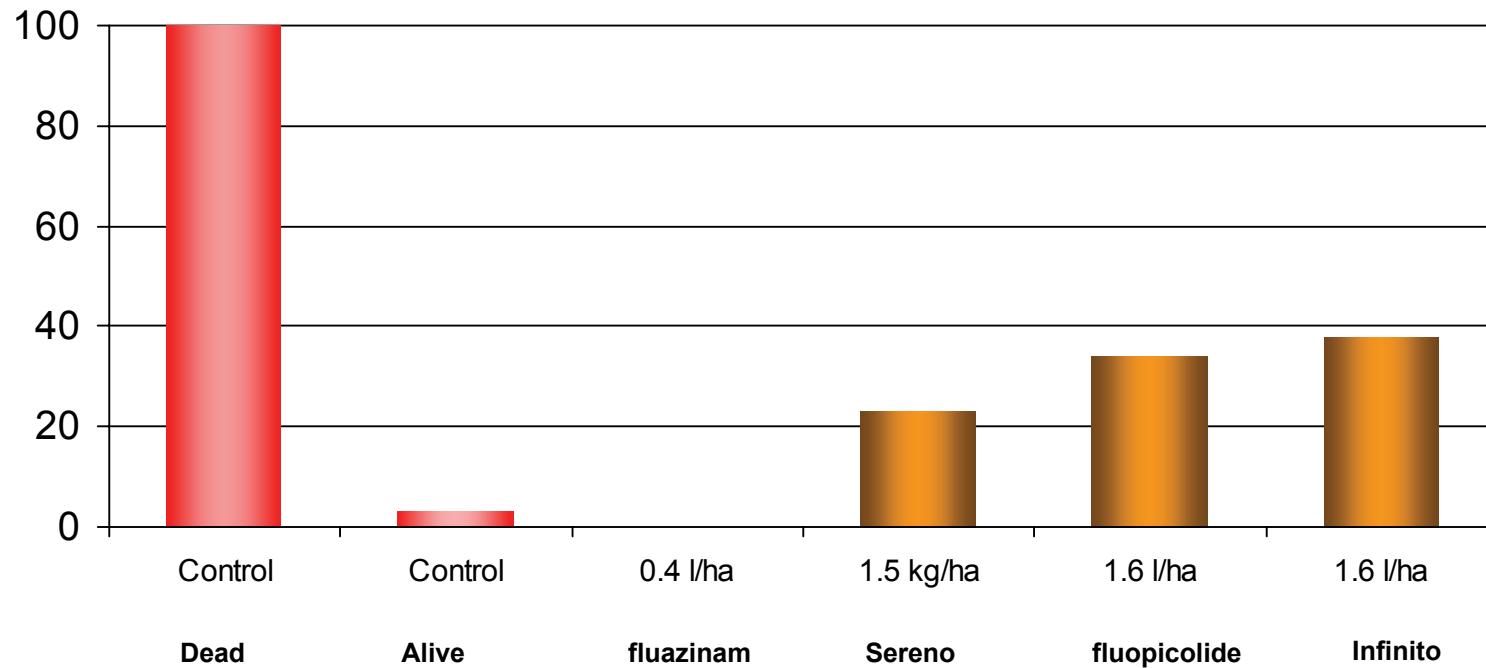


Contact fungicides do not influence the viability of newly formed sporangia  
Translaminar product such as fenamidone reduces viability of newly formed sporangia

# Sporangia Viability by Vital Staining

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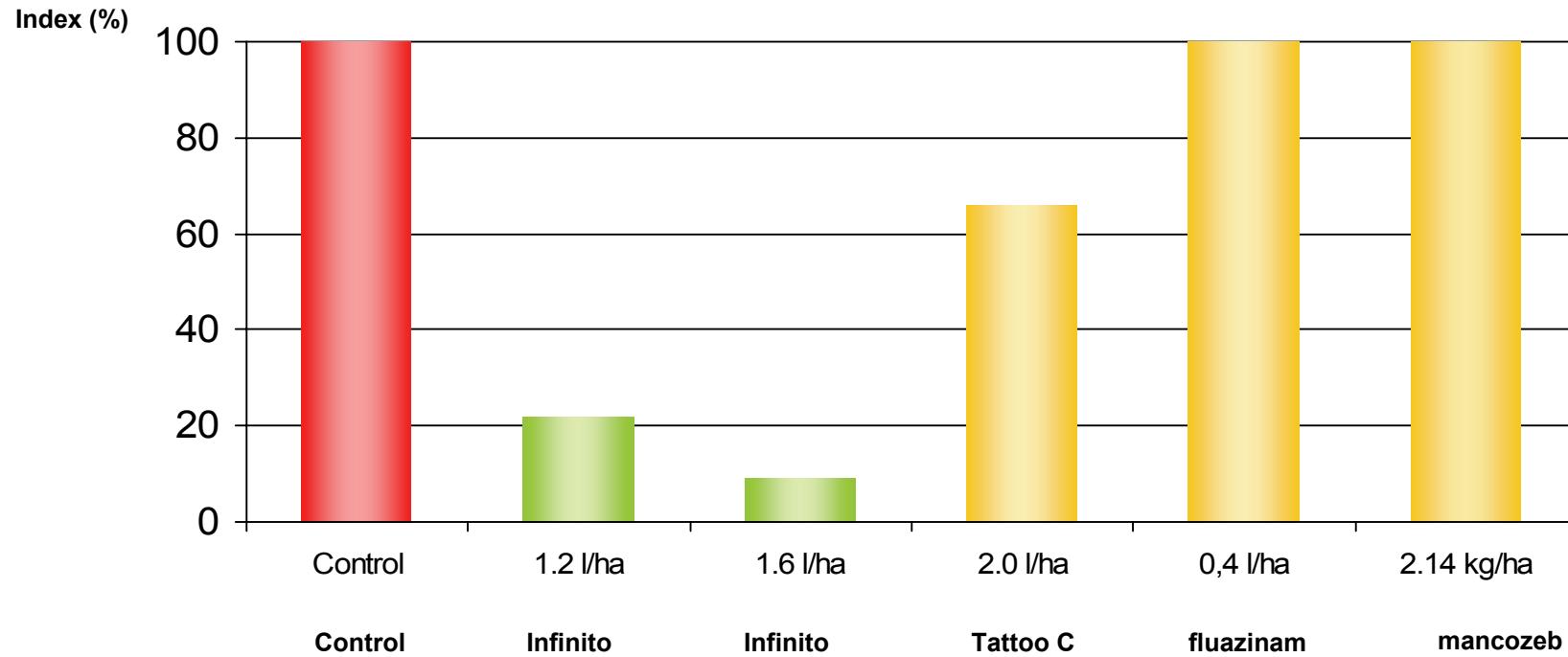
Dead sporangia (%) by viable staining 7 days after inoculation ( 48h, curative)



▶ Reduction of viability by translaminar fungicides at curative application  
lower compared to preventative  
Infinito provided significant reduction of spore viability

# Anti-sporulant Activity :

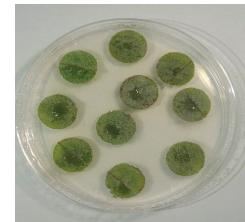
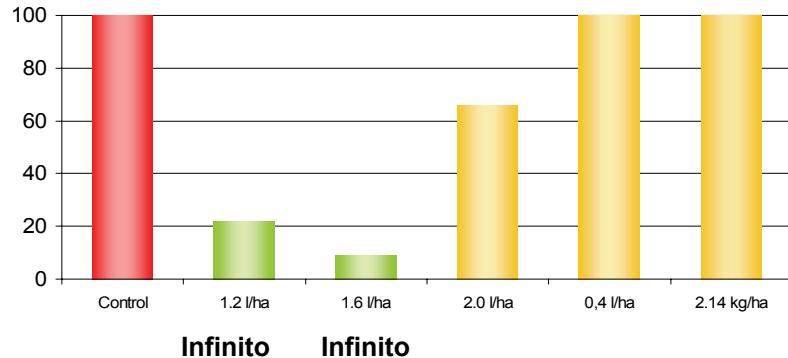
Sporulation index relative to untreated after curative application



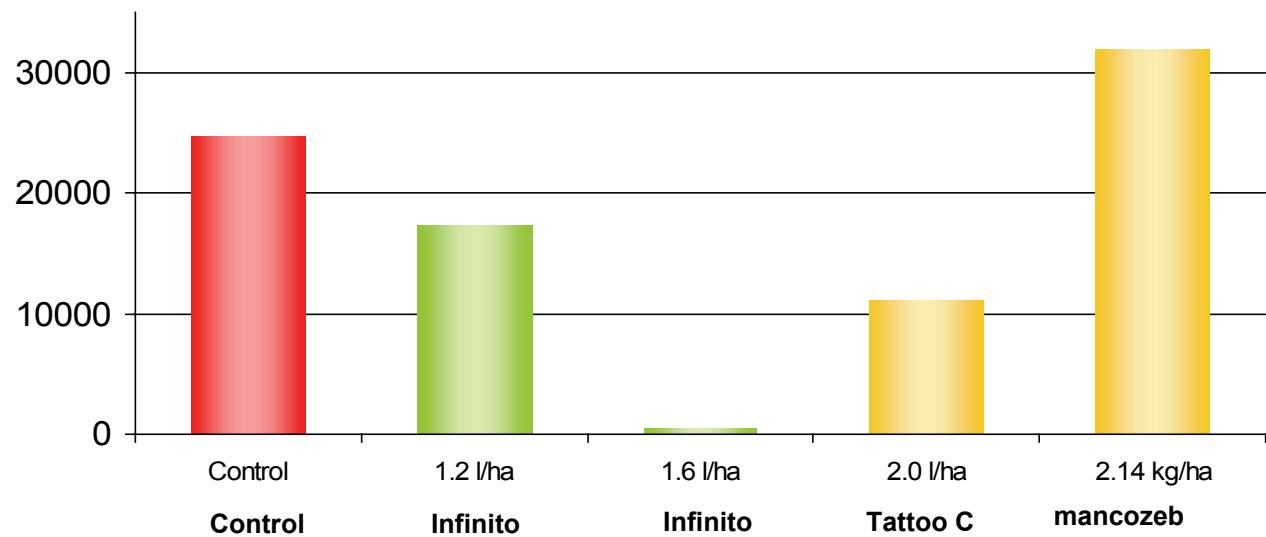
► Infinito has strong anti-sporulant properties

# Infectivity Test (sporangia production)

Anti-sporulant effect



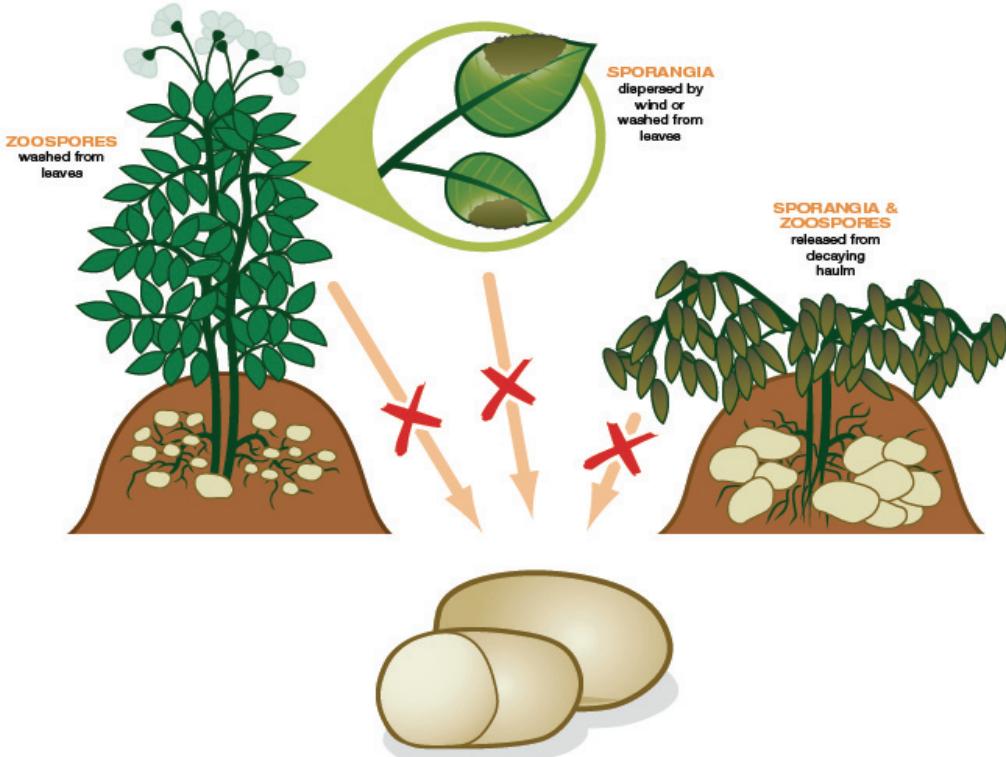
Infectivity newly formed sporangia (spores / ml)



- ▶ Infinito reduces the infectivity of newly formed sporangia, coming from the reduction of sporangia both number and viability

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**Spore quantity**

**Sporicide effect**

**Spore viability**

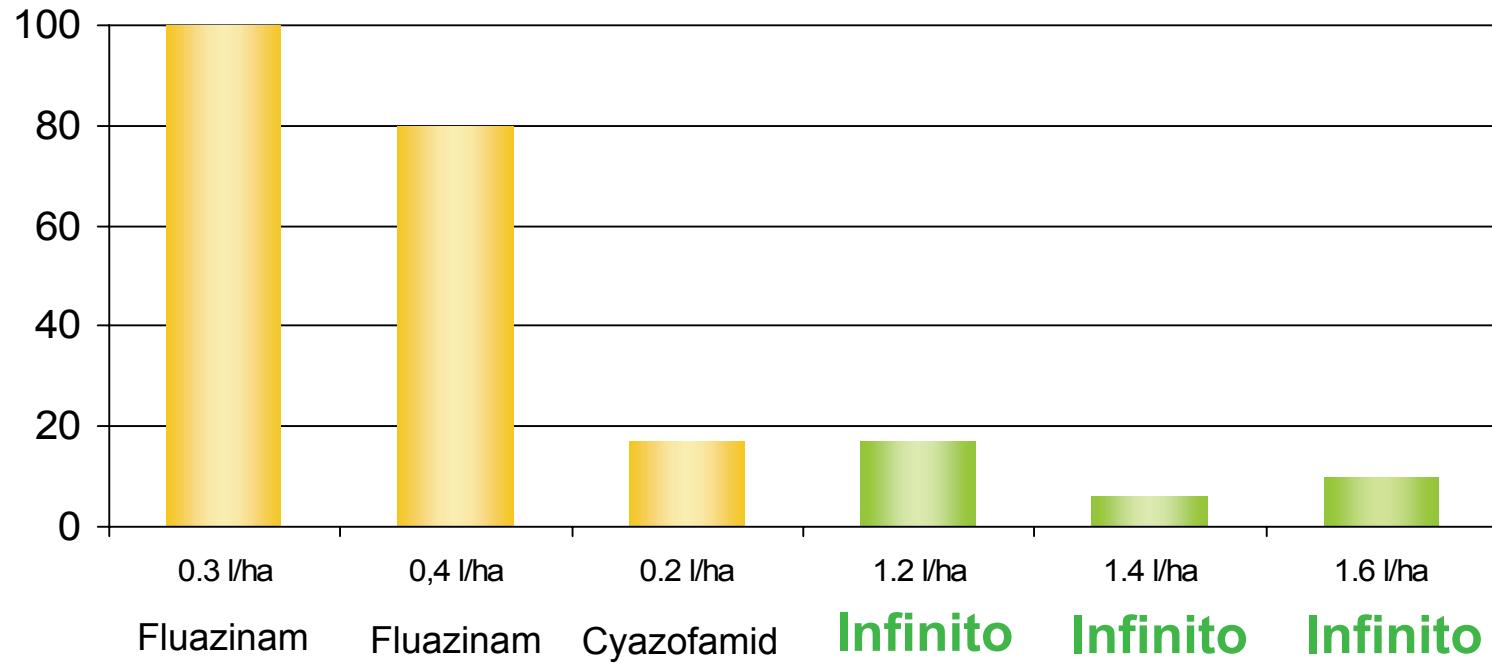
Tuber blight control of Infinito based on multiple action

# Tuber Blight Control NL

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Relative tuber blight infection (%)



(relative % diseased tubers, average of 2 trials BCS Netherlands 2006)

# Conclusions / Recommendations

- ◆ The live/dead viability kit ( FDA & PI) validated as a rapid indicator of *Phytophthora* sporangia viability
- ◆ Translaminar fungicides have potential to reduce sporulation according to their kinetics of penetration, bio availability and fungicidal properties
- ◆ Infinito was confirmed as a strong translaminar and anti-sporulant fungicide
- ◆ Infinito has a multiple action:
  - strong sporicide effect
  - reduction of sporulation
  - reduction of viability and infection success of sporangia
- ◆ The properties of fungicides on apparent infection rates should be considered for incorporation into DSS to optimise late blight / tuber blight control



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**Thank you very much for your kind attention**