

# State of the art and important research questions: Report from the new EuroBlight Alternaria group

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## 1. PROTOCOLS

The discussion started with the key question of the causal agent of early blight in potatoes (*A. solani*, *A. alternata*, other *Alternaria* species).

The first step is to harmonize the different protocols of the Early Blight research groups with the aim to get comparable results.

The EuroBlight *Alternaria* group decided to summarize the different protocols for isolation, spore production, artificial inoculation (greenhouse and field) and molecular detection of the participants.

## 2. PROTOCOL FOR FUNGICIDE TRIALS TO PROVIDE RATINGS FOR ALTERNARIA FUNGICIDES

Hans Hausladen presented the following outline of the protocol to initiate discussion.

### *Field trial*

- Susceptible variety
- Weekly applications of Revus or Ranman Top to prevent late blight
- Two to five applications of *Alternaria* fungicides
- Test fungicides to commence before the start of the epidemic (approximately 7 to 8 weeks after emergence)
- *Alternaria* test fungicides to be applied at intervals of 14 days and at the highest label dose rate in Europe
- Two or more reference fungicides, i.e. mancozeb (1500 g a.i. per ha), Signum (0.25 kg/ha) and Ortiva (0.5 L/ha)

Fungicide rating trials according to the protocol will be conducted 2013 in Germany, Netherlands, Denmark, Belgium and Poland (supervisor: Bent Nielsen).

### **3. HOMEPAGE**

All the protocols as well as relevant publications (*Alternaria* on potato and tomato) will be uploaded and updated on the EUROBLIGHT homepage.

### **4. NEW INITIATIVES**

The members of the subgroup decided to initiate a cooperating project dealing with the widespread of the QoI fungicide resistance of *A. solani* in European potato growing areas. The project calls "Monitoring of sensitivity to fungicides (QoI) of *A. solani* isolates".

The project starts in 2013 with a limited number of *Alternaria solani* isolates and locations.