

Potato Blight Control

Trialling the effectiveness of a natural biopesticide for control of late blight in potatoes



RESULTS

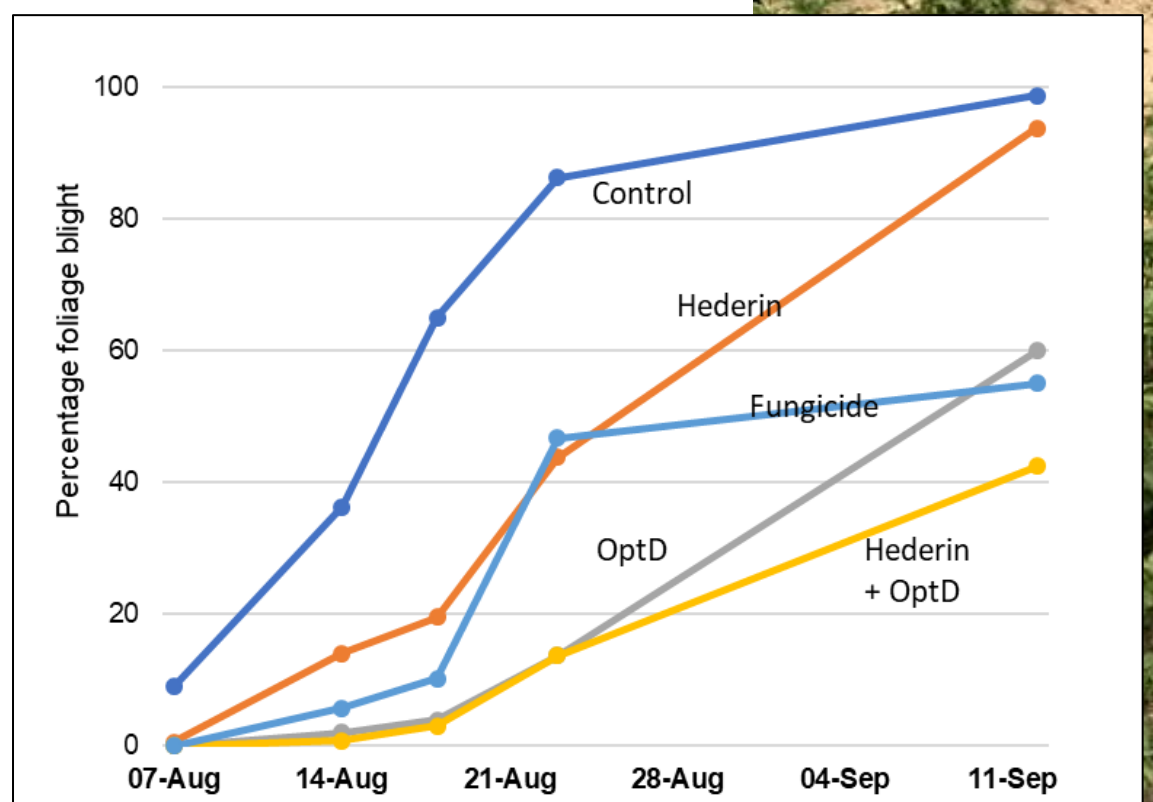
- Hederin slowed the early progression of blight, however it did not prevent blight infection reaching 100% of the crop, and was less effective than standard fungicide.
- OptD was successful both in terms of slowing progression of the disease and reducing the overall level of blight by the end of the season.
- A combination of both OptD and Hederin showed potential as the most effective treatment for late blight.
- It was disappointing that Hederin alone cannot compete against the standard fungicide however when combined with OptD it can achieve better results.
- Hederin may have a role to play in integrated disease management programmes especially for organic growers.

The issue: Late potato blight can be very problematic for both organic and conventional growers and new control options, particularly for organic, would be welcomed.

The project: Tested two new options of blight control over two growing seasons (2017 and 2018):

1. Hederin spray formed from ivy leaves to control late blight.
2. OptiYield Diamond (OptD) - a biostimulant that can help plants grow stronger.

Trial sites: Two farms, Ty'n yr Helyg near Llanrhystyd and Henfaes Research farm at Bangor University.



Average score of late blight at Henfaes, 2017