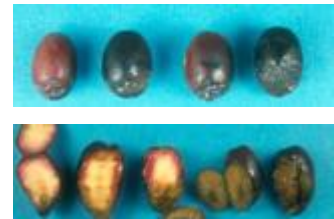


Research Directions

Office of Research Services

Stopping Rot in Olives

Associate Professor Robert Spooner-Hart and a team from the Centre for Plant and Food Science (PAFS), will undertake a project with Horticulture Australia Limited (HAL) to research safe fungicidal management of berry rot disease in olives. The project aims to better identify the major causes of fruit damage to olives in eastern Australia and develop strategies for their sustainable control.



The olive industry is one of the most rapidly developing horticultural industries in Australia and most groves are now bearing' says Associate Professor Spooner-Hart. 'However, fruit damage is frequent and the cause is not often clear. To identify common causes for fruit damage and disorders and test the best pesticides for their management, researchers will monitor and diagnose the crops and carry out both laboratory and field trials, targeting major growers in Victoria, NSW and Queensland'.

Focussing on fungal pathogens and thrips, the project team will collect olive flowers and fruit in order to identify and assess common infective agents and thrips species and infection cycles. They will also find potential fungicides and concentrations that might be effective against the pathogens by laboratory testing. Field investigations will then allow researchers to trial the results of laboratory tests in olive groves in NSW, QLD, and Vic.

There will be a number of outcomes from this research. The project will assist in forecasting disease development and use of fungicides rationally in the olive industry. The researchers will produce information in a 4-6 page flyer to help growers diagnose olive fruit disorders. It will enable olive growers to adopt economical disease management programs based on best practice, with a better understanding of causes and preventative options for reducing olive fruit damage. The range of compatible pesticides for use on olive fruits will be expanded for olive farmers and the pesticide industry.

Project Title: *Safe use of fungicides to manage berry rot diseases for sustainable oleaculture*

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