CDAQ
CONSEIL POUR LE DÉVELOPPEMENT DE L'AGRICULTURE DU QUÉBEC

COLUMN

A boost for crucifers

The research firm Phytodata Inc. has just completed a project to develop new integrated control methods for clubroot. Field tests aimed at improving the physicochemical constitution of the soil have shown that the addition of liming material, under some conditions, increases the pH and thus controls disease.

Clubroot develops more easily in acidic soil and is practically inhibited at a pH of 7.2. Under Quebec conditions, this is the most effective and most stable means of reducing clubroot. CDAQ, through its Applied Research and Technological Innovation program, has contributed $100,000 to this project.

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Phytoprotection

By studying the causes and symptoms of plant diseases, it is possible to reduce crop losses considerably. With phytoprotection, it is possible to develop means of disease control based on different approaches such as soil amendment, genetic improvement or rational use of various products. The projects presented here illustrate these three types of approaches.

Iceberg lettuce, beautiful all summer

Rib blight is a physiological disorder that appears in Quebec iceberg lettuce in the very hot weeks of summer. The Fédération des producteurs maraîchers du Québec is currently conducting a study to guarantee the quality of lettuce throughout the growing period.

First, tests made it possible to determine the conditions that favour rib blight and the effects of nitrogen fertilization on the development of the disease. The proposed action to reduce short and medium-term losses during the hottest period of the summer is to harvest iceberg lettuce before maturity. However, nitrogen fertilization has only proven to have a small impact on rib blight in the different varieties tested.

As a partner, the CDAQ contributed $84,250 to this project valued at over $180,500.

To find a longer-term solution, a second project is focusing on new lettuce varieties that are more resistant to heat stress and meet market quality requirements. Complementing the tests already mentioned, these promising new varieties are already being tested with producers. CDAQ has contributed $77,500 under the Applied Research, Innovation and Transfer program.

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An insecticide to control aphids

Aphids are the main pests that cause major losses in head lettuce crops. To control these aphid populations, the research firm Phytodata Inc. is comparing three modes of application of the insecticide Admire®: foliar application, drenching the transplant bases and application to transplants in the field and in direct field seeding.

Comparing these application methods with conventional foliar spraying is intended to reduce the frequency of treatment and evaluate the optimal insecticide rate to apply. Up to now, the research conducted under the Applied Research, Innovation and Transfer program shows that the drenching method produces the best results. CDAQ has contributed over $35,000 toward this $70,845 project.

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We invite you to contact us for any question or comment on this column or the activities of the CDAQ
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To refer to the list of financially supported projects, please visit the Council's website at: www.cdaq.qc.ca
Since its inception in 1996, the CDAQ administers the producers' share of provincial funds allocated by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) under the Canadian Adaptation and Rural Development Fund (CARD).

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