

EVALUATION OF NEW COMPOUNDS TO CONTROL ALTERNARIA LEAF BLIGHT OF CARROTS

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Alternaria leaf blight (ALB) continues to be a major pest problem of carrots grown in California. Although in most years ALB appears as a sporadic problem, ALB can become severe in years in which the fall months are high in humidity with warm temperatures. Severely infested fields may become unharvestable due to the loss of the tops. Because of the threat of infection by *Alternaria dauci*, carrot fields are routinely monitored for ALB along with other pests. Carrots grown in the fall are particularly susceptible to infection. During the fall, it is a common practice by growers to apply fungicides as a preventive measure. Iprodione is the most commonly used fungicide for prevention and control of *Alternaria* leaf blight. Recent studies have shown that some fungicide tolerance has developed in California isolates of *A. dauci* to iprodione (Gilbertson, 1997 CFCAB Report). Identifying alternative means of chemical control is needed to maintain control of the disease of carrots. Evaluation of new chemistries for ALB control has not been done by UCCE for several years. Chemical companies have developed new fungicides that may prove to be more effective and environmentally friendly. The University needs to evaluate these new materials in an unbiased trial to determine if these new materials may have a use in the California carrot industry. The goal of this experiment is to gather new fungicides that may have efficacy on *Alternaria dauci* and test them on carrots for ALB control.