

Title Ten years of field trials on grey mold control on strawberries
Author G. Ceredi, L. Antoniacchi, C. Montuschi, E. De Paoli, M. Mari and S. Gengotti
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Abstract

The region of Romagna (north-central Italy) is one of Italy's most typical areas for growing strawberries, with over 400 hectares of cultivated surface area. Over two-thirds of this crop consists of strawberry beds in open fields in which the onset of phyto-sanitary problems depends above all on climatic trends. In this context the development and diffusion of various pathogenic agents is more likely; these agents can lead to consistent product losses in the field as well as during the post-harvest period. The most common pathogen is *Botrytis cinerea*, a grey mold agent with ubiquitous inoculation in the areas where strawberries are commonly grown. The research reported is a synthesis of ten years (1998-2007) of field experimentation, aimed at evaluating the efficiency of various active ingredients used against *B. cinerea*. During the ten year period of experimentation the older generation of active ingredients was evaluated (procimidone) as well as more recent ones (pyrimethanil, mepanipiryim, fenhexamide, cyprodinil-fludioxonil, and azoxystrobin), and finally the most recent phyto-iatric acquisitions (pyraclostrobin- boscalid). The most effective fungicides for controlling strawberry grey mold and limiting financial loss in all phases were pyrimethanil, cyprodinil-fludioxonil, mepanipiryim and pyraclostrobin-boscalid (average effectiveness 85-95%). fenhexamide and procimidone were less effective than the aforementioned ones (average effectiveness 70-80%) and finally azoxystrobin was modestly effective (50-60%).