College of Natural Resources and the Environment

University of Massachusetts Amherst

Greater Harmony Between Agriculture and the Environment

Evaluation and Development of Plant Pathogens for Biological Control of Weeds

Issue

- Cranberry Farmers
- Industry
- Consumers

What has been done?

It is important that C. gloeosporioides not be infective on other important horticultural and agricultural plants, and to date, this appears to be the case. This is a critical discovery in order for this fungus to be registered as a biological control agent. Furthermore, the finding that dodder seedlings are highly susceptible to the fungus even before they become attached to their hosts and produce haustoria is significant. The fungus could be used early in the growing season before fruit rot fungicides are being sprayed.

Impact

These fungicides would be roadblocks to successful establishment of infection. In addition, by killing the dodder before it parasitizes the cranberry vines, yield effects would be minimal by the parasite.

Primary impact area(s)

- Research
- Education
- Extension

Funding sources

- Hatch Act
- Special Research Grants
- Commodity (Cranberry)

Topics

- Integrated Pest Management

Contacts

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