

Recent improvements to the soft fruit pathogen testing scheme in the UK

Alison Dolan and Hugh Barker

Scottish Crop Research Institute, Invergowrie, Dundee DD2 5DA Scotland.

Scottish Crop
Research Institute

mylnefield
research services

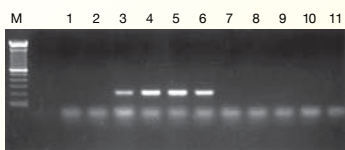
At SCRI we:

- test *Rubus*, *Ribes* and *Fragaria*
- operate to EPPO standards
- use world-leading biological, serological and molecular protocols (many devised at SCRI)
- constantly develop improved protocols
- recently developed a web site for the confidential release of test results to users



New test methods for Blackcurrant reversion virus and Gooseberry vein banding virus

- Existing tests takes up to 2 years to complete
- New PCR diagnostic tests devised at SCRI only take 2 weeks to complete
- Can use leaf or dormant bud material
- We are currently validating the new PCR tests against existing methods



New test methods for Phytophthora in raspberry using PCR

- Improving sample preparation
- Investigating new primers to improve sensitivity
- Implementing steps to improve QA
- Using specific primers for identification of *Phytophthora fragariae* var *rubi* and *Phytophthora idaei*
- Developing real-time PCR TaqMan® probes



- FruitGateway.co.uk (launched in October 2005) is a series of web sites and web-enabled applications covering all aspects of soft fruit work at SCRI, including Fruithealth, all accessible from the FruitGateway portal.
- Fruithealth.co.uk (launched in October 2004) is the site for UK and International soft fruit pathogen testing and maintenance of high-health germplasm incorporating fully validated tests devised at SCRI.
- For the future, we are developing the FruitDisease Information database that will be an innovative tool for pest and pathogen identification.