

# Control of Lesion Nematodes, *Pratylenchus* spp., in Grapevine Nursery Material by Immersion in Fenamiphos Solutions and Hot Water

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**Control of *Pratylenchus* spp. in dormant grapevine nursery material was attempted using fenamiphos solutions and a hot-water treatment. Five months after treatment, the lesion nematodes were eradicated by all treatments. Although no visual phytotoxicity symptoms were recorded at any stage with any of the treatments tested, hot water significantly reduced plant growth of certain scion/rootstock combinations. Treatment with 0,1% (a.i.) fenamiphos solution for 30 minutes at 25°C is recommended.**

*Pratylenchus* spp. are migratory endo-parasites which attack a wide variety of crops. As this nematode moves in and out of the roots of its host, it sometimes causes conspicuous lesions from which the descriptive name, i.e. root-lesion nematodes, is derived. Root-lesion nematodes have been shown to cause serious root damage of grapevines which can lead to stunting (Pinochet, Raski & Goheen, 1976) or root invasion by secondary pathogens (Powell, 1971).

To date four species of root-lesion nematodes have been recorded in South African vineyards; viz. *Pratylenchus penetrans*, *Pratylenchus vulnus*, *Pratylenchus minyus* and *Pratylenchus crenatus* (Smith, 1982).

*Pratylenchus* spp. are widely distributed throughout the viticultural areas of South Africa (Smith, 1977) and growers are concerned about establishing new vineyards with infested propagation material. It is also a legal requirement that nursery material must be free from these nematodes.

Control of nematodes in plants by hot-water treatment has become a widely used practice (Lear & Lider, 1959; Raski, Hart & Kasimatis, 1973). This technique can also be applied to control *Pratylenchus* spp. on grapevine (Lear, 1966) as well as other plants (Way, 1973; Towson & Lear, 1982).

However, since this method has become a fairly general practice in South Africa for the control of *Phytophthora cinnamomi* on grapevine propagation material (Von Broembsen & Marais, 1978), several reports of physiological damage and dieback have been received from growers.

Chemical treatment of roots infested with parasitic nematodes has received special attention since the introduction of systemic nematicides (Suatmadji, 1982). The method has been tested with varying degrees of success on different crops and several nematode species (Dale, 1973; Milne, 1973; Bolander & Santo, 1977; Coates-Beckford, 1977; Grandison, 1983). To our knowledge no attempt has been made to eradicate *Pratylenchus* spp. from grapevines with these chemicals and a trial was therefore conducted on dormant grapevine material. Special attention was given to possible

phytotoxicity of the treatments to different grapevine scion/rootstock combinations.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

### Plant Material:

The experiment was conducted during August 1984 with one year old, dormant rooted vines consisting of the following scion/rootstock combinations:

- A. Dan-ben-Hannah/Ramsey
- B. Dan-ben-Hannah/99 Richter
- C. Bien Donné/99 Richter
- D. Cabernet Sauvignon/101-14 Mgt
- E. Colombar/Ramsey
- F. Muscat d'Alexandrie/Jacquez
- G. Colombar/99 Richter

### Treatments:

The following treatments were applied to all scion/rootstock combinations:

1. Fenamiphos (Nemacur 40% ec) solution (0,1% a.i.) at 15°C for 60 min.
2. Fenamiphos (Nemacur 40% ec) solution (0,2% a.i.) at 15°C for 60 min.
3. Fenamiphos (Nemacur 40% ec) solution (0,1% a.i.) at 25°C for 30 min.
4. Fenamiphos (Nemacur 40% ec) solution (0,2% a.i.) at 25°C for 30 min.
5. Hot-water at 50°C for 15 minutes.
6. Untreated control.

Before treatment vines were all pruned to two buds, roots cut back to a length of 100 mm, and the total mass of each plant determined. The roots thus removed were analysed for nematode infestation by a maceration sieving technique as described below. Scion/rootstock combinations A-F were found to be free from parasitic nematodes, while scion/rootstock combination G was infested by *Pratylenchus* spp.

Plant roots were immersed in hot water or in the fenamiphos solutions for the required time and immediately thereafter rinsed in cold water. Plants were individually planted in pots containing a sterilized (120°C, 15 min.) sand/peat moss potting mixture and were grown under shaded conditions in a plastic tunnel with

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temperatures ranging between 19°C and 28°C.

#### A. Nematode control:

Nematode control was evaluated three and five months after treatment on the Colombar/99 Richter combination (G) found to be infested with *Pratylenchus* spp. before treatment. Seven replicates consisting of four vines each were evaluated each time by using a composite root sample for analysis. The number of nematodes were determined by the following maceration sieving technique:

Roots were cut into lengths of 20 mm or less and a randomly picked sample of 50 g placed in 200 ml water and macerated for 10 seconds in a blender. The resulting suspension was passed through a series of sieves (125 $\mu$ , 90 $\mu$  and 38 $\mu$ ) and the root debris washed with a spray of water. The nematodes were collected from the bottom (38 $\mu$ ) sieve by washing it into a beaker and allowed to settle under gravitation for 30 minutes. Water was syphoned from the beaker to obtain a 50 ml working suspension and nematode counts were made from this using a 2 ml capacity counting chamber.

#### B. Phytotoxicity evaluations:

A total of seven plants per scion/rootstock combination (A-F) were used for assessment of possible phytotoxicity. Phytotoxicity of treatments was regularly assessed for visual symptoms during the growing period and after five months all plants were removed and phytotoxicity assessed by determining plant mass increase, total root mass, total shoot mass and total shoot length. Data was subjected to a three way analyses of variance.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

#### A. Nematode control:

The number of *Pratylenchus* nematodes found in the roots, three and five months after fenamiphos and hot water treatments, is shown in Table 1.

TABLE 1. Effect of fenamiphos solutions and hot-water treatments on *Pratylenchus* numbers in Colombar/99 Richter roots.

Treatment	Number of <i>Pratylenchus</i> /50 g of roots	
	After 3 months	After 5 months
1. Fenamiphos (0.1% a.i.) at 15°C for 60 min.	85.71 a	0
2. Fenamiphos (0.2% a.i.) at 15°C for 60 min.	14.29 a	0
3. Fenamiphos (0.1% a.i.) at 25°C for 30 min.	71.43 a	0
4. Fenamiphos (0.2% a.i.) at 25°C for 30 min.	62.86 a	0
5. Hot-water at 50°C for 15 min.	40.00 a	0
6. Control	88.57 a	464.29

Three months after treatment *Pratylenchus* individuals were found in all treated vines and although differences occurred between treatments, this was not significant. However, nematodes extracted from treated vines were inactive and appeared to be dead.

After five months no *Pratylenchus* could be found on any of the treated vines, whereas numbers in the roots of untreated vines increased substantially. It was con-

cluded that the nematodes found in the roots of treated vines during the initial evaluations, were in fact dead or non-infective. One composite soil sample from treated vines was analysed at this stage for the presence of *Pratylenchus*, but no nematodes were extracted.

This proves that a systemic nematicide such as fenamiphos can be used with success to eradicate *Pratylenchus* spp. from grapevine nursery material. According to Suatmadji (1982), *Meloidogyne javanica* will also be eradicated during such a treatment and this method can therefore serve a dual purpose with a minimum of effort and at a low cost.

#### B. Phytotoxicity evaluations:

The effect of treatments on plant mass increase, root mass as well as shoot mass and shoot length, is shown in Table 2.

TABLE 2. Effect of fenamiphos and hot water on growth of grapevine nursery material.

Treatment	Plant mass increase (g)	Root mass (g)	Shoot mass (g)	Shoot length (mm)
1. Fenamiphos (0.1% a.i.) at 15°C for 60 min.	77.67 bc	36.45 ab	47.05 a	1 075.7 ac
2. Fenamiphos (0.2% a.i.) at 15°C for 60 min.	64.05 ab	39.57 bc	30.48 b	945.0 a
3. Fenamiphos (0.1% a.i.) at 25°C for 30 min.	78.29 c	42.07 c	42.50 a	1 277.1 b
4. Fenamiphos (0.2% a.i.) at 25°C for 30 min.	75.57 bc	43.05 c	38.57 ac	1 250.5 bc
5. Hot-water at 50°C at 15 min.	56.83 a	32.50 a	29.67 b	1 022.6 ac
6. Control	67.98 bc	39.93 bc	35.29 bc	1 134.5 ab

Plant mass increase as well as root mass of the hot-water treated vines are significantly lower than those of the control. Although no visual signs of phytotoxicity were observed at any stage during this experiment, hot water evidently affected plant growth to a lesser extent. No other treatment resulted in statistically lower masses or shoot lengths than the control.

Significant differences occurred between the fenamiphos treatments and a 0.1% (a.i.) solution at 25°C for 30 minutes (treatment 3) proved better than a 0.1% (a.i.) solution at 15°C for 60 minutes (treatment 1) in terms of root mass and shoot length. Equally a 0.2% (a.i.) fenamiphos solution at 25°C for 30 minutes (treatment 4) gave significantly better results than a 0.2% (a.i.) solution at 15°C for 60 minutes (treatment 2) in terms of shoot mass and shoot length. No significant differences were recorded between treatments 3 and 4. These results imply that the longer treatment time, rather than the higher dosage, may have a marginal negative effect on plant growth.

In the case of fenamiphos treatments no differences were found between different scion/rootstock combinations. However, results of hot-water treatments presented in Table 3 show that different scion/rootstock combinations react differently to hot-water treatment and this may well account for the negative reports occasionally received from vine growers.

TABLE 3. The effect of hot-water treatment on growth of different scion/rootstock combinations.

		A. Dan-ben Hannah on Ramsey	B. Dan-ben Hannah on 99 Richter	C. Bien Donn�e on 99 Richter	D. Cabernet Sauvignon on 101-14 Mgt	E. Colombar on Ramsey	F. Muscat d' Alexandrie on Jacquez
Plant mass increase	Treated	46 a	37 a	102 a	72 a	25 a	58 a
	Untreated	62 a	77 b	64 a	81 a	58 b	73 a
Root mass	Treated	21 a	26 a	70 a	39 a	9 a	31 a
	Untreated	41 a	46 a	35 a	37 a	31 b	44 a

Scion/rootstock B (Dan-ben-Hannah/99 Richter) yielded a significantly lower plant mass increase, while scion/rootstock E (Colombar/Ramsey) showed highly significant lower plant mass increase as well as root mass than their untreated controls. Although the effect of hot-water treatment could not be detected visually, the reduction in plant and root growth measured for these scion/rootstock combinations, especially Colombar/Ramsey, imply that hot-water treatment may sometimes be hazardous in practice.

#### CONCLUSIONS

Treatment of grapevine nursery material with fenamiphos or hot water is effective in eradicating *Pratylenchus* spp. All treatments successfully eradicate this endo-parasite from roots, therefore infested nursery material can be treated before planting.

It is recommended that preference should be given to treatment with a 0,1% (a.i.) solution of fenamiphos for 30 minutes at c.a. 25°C. Because plant growth of certain scion/rootstock combinations was adversely affected by hot-water treatment, this method cannot be generally recommended for the eradication of *Pratylenchus* spp. from grapevine nursery material.

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