The challenges of disease control in high value crops. An advisor’s view
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Challenge No. 1 – the need for perfection
"The Fly"
Challenge No. 3 – other activities increasing disease risk
Challenge No. 4
– loss of uses
Lettuce Fusarium Wilt And Root Rot

An outbreak of lettuce Fusarium wilt and root rot caused by an aggressive strain *F. oxysporum* f. sp. *lactucae* was reported on protected lettuce in the UK for the first time in early October 2017 in Lancashire. The pathogen was identified as Race 4 which is a particularly aggressive strain of the fungus with no known treatment or varietal resistance available to date.

**Challenge No. 5 – New diseases**

The disease has also been reported for the first time on lettuce in Ireland although pathogen race has not yet been confirmed.

Now that the disease has been reported in the UK, propagators and growers are advised to review their production protocols, particularly regarding crop hygiene.

AHDB are commissioning a technical review on lettuce Fusarium wilt to compile detailed information on disease management options to help minimise the impact of this disease on the UK lettuce industry.
Challenge No. 6 – Economic pressures
Challenges:

• Need for perfection
• Harvest date
  • Final spray timing
  • Impact of subsequent weather
• Other activities in crop & IPM
  • Irrigation, fertiliser etc.
  • Effect of insect mesh
  • Hoeing damage
  • Varietal resistance breaking
• Loss of uses
  • Active disappeared
  • Use lost at re-registration
  • Use restricted at re-registration
  • Use restricted by supermarket
  • Resistance to active
• New diseases
• Economic pressures