ACCURATE IDENTIFICATION UNDERPINS **EFFECTIVE PEST AND DISEASE CONTROL**

By Judy Allan

Help in selecting the most appropriate laboratory for sample analysis and species identification is available as part of the levy funded project MU21007: Pest and Disease Management for the Australian Mushroom Industry.

When contacted, project members Judy Allan and Warwick Gill can explore symptoms remotely via photographs and discussion. If further analysis is deemed necessary and laboratory analysis appropriate, Judy and Warwick can recommend the right laboratory and advise on the correct sampling technique. In consultation with the key farm staff, they can develop a preliminary action plan, and once test results are available, they can help interpret the results and review progress and refine the action plan.

Accurate identification of a disease or pest is the basis of effective control. Sometimes the cause of the symptom is easy to identify because the farm staff and owners have prior experience at managing the problem. But in some instances, new or different diseases or pests appear that are not familiar to the farm staff or owner. In other instances, the symptoms are not 'classic', that is they do not present as they are expected to look, and this can lead to an incorrect identification. Often containment and control measures are species specific, so incorrect identification can lead to ineffective measures being put in place, so it is always important to accurately identify what's present.

The usual laboratories that do the diagnostics for mushroom pests and diseases are:

Crop Health Services- AgriBio	**Kul Ratnayake Pty Ltd**	**Applied Horticultural Research**
5 Ring Rd, La Trobe University Bundoora VICTORIA 3083 Phone: 03 9032 7323 Email: chs.reception@agriculture.vic.gov.au	183 Grandview GV, Rosanna VICTORIA 3084 Phone 03 9455 2925 Email: kularatna@optusnet.com.au	PO Box 917 Alexandria NSW 1435 https//ahr.com.au/mushroom-disease-diagnosis-service Note: AHR provides a commercial testing service based on PCR techniques developed in Hort Innovation project MU12007 for Cobweb, Dry Bubble, Green Mould (*Trichoderma* spp. and *Trichoderma aggressivum*) Bacterial Blotch (*Pseudomonas tolaasii* and *Pseudomonas gingeri*)

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT THE PROJECT TEAM

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