

Managing grey mould with the help of bees or bumblebees



What is it?

Bees or bumblebees are necessary for the pollination of different crops. They can also be used as transporters of biopesticides which act against plant diseases.

Biodiversity

Biocontrol agents

(ultra-) precision agriculture

How does it work?

Bees or bumblebees go through a corridor and get 'coated' with biological fungicide powder when leaving the hive. The biological fungicide contains a beneficial fungus (*Clonostachys rosea* J1446) which is an antagonist of grey mould (*Botrytis cinerea*). The bees or bumblebees disseminate the spores and mycelium of the beneficial fungus to the flowers and so protect the flowers against grey mould.

Different implementations



Wooden dispenser in front of the bee hive



Dispenser integrated in the bumblebee hive



Bumblebee coated in the biological fungicide powder



Strawberries damaged by *Botrytis cinerea*

Results

By using the biological fungicide with microbial dispensers in periods with a low disease pressure, the grower can reduce the use of chemical interventions.