

Effect of the Mycoherbicide, *Colletotrichum gloeosporioides* f. sp. *malvae*, on Control of Round-leaved Mallow in Strawberries

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As part of crop tolerance tests for registration of *Colletotrichum gloeosporioides* f. sp. *malvae* (*C.g.m.*) as a mycoherbicide for control of round-leaved mallow in strawberries, field plots were treated with 4 times the recommended rate of *C.g.m.* The experiment was laid out in a round-leaved mallow-infested area using 4 strawberry cultivars. Half the plots were treated and the other half were left untreated. Half of each plot was kept weed-free by handweeding and round-leaved mallow was left in the other half. Round-leaved mallow competition was detrimental to strawberry establishment, and berry yield was reduced to half of the production obtained in weed-free plots. *C.g.m.*-treated plots with round-leaved mallow had more vigorous plants than the untreated plots with round-leaved mallow, and produced significantly more berries, almost to the level of weed-free plots. There was no adverse effect of *C.g.m.* on strawberry production or plant development in any of the plots. Therefore, the use of this mycoherbicide for control of round-leaved mallow in strawberry production is a viable option that fits well in an integrated pest management system for sustainable agriculture.
