

Professor Bruce FITT

Date of birth	8 June 1952
Degrees	1977 MA Natural Sciences (Cambridge)
	1977 Ph.D. in Plant Pathology (Imperial College, London)
Career	1993-present Band 4 Plant Pathologist, Rothamsted Research
	1984-1993 Band 5 Plant Pathologist, Rothamsted Research
	1977-1984 Band 6 Plant Pathologist, Rothamsted Research

Research on epidemiology, modelling, forecasting, diagnosis and control of diseases of arable crops (winter oilseed rape, winter wheat, linseed, winter barley, sunflower, field beans, potato). Mechanisms and models of pathogen spore dispersal by wind and rain. Effects of rainfall, temperature, leaf wetness on stages in the development of disease epidemics (spore germination, infection, latent period, incubation period, sporulation). Mathematical models of epidemic progress. Diagnosis of symptomless and complex infections by mycological, molecular and immunological methods. Optimising fungicide use in arable crops in relation to development of rational disease control strategies. Yield loss/disease severity relationships. Forecasting risk of severe disease epidemics for regions and individual crops (e.g. web-based interactive forecast for light leaf spot on winter oilseed rape). Coordinator for oilseeds pathology research team (11 staff and students).

Committee, editorial and other responsibilities

Referee for Scientific Journals (Agronomie, Plant Path., Irish Res., Phytopath., Mycol. Res., Eur. J. Plant Pathol., Australian J. Exp. Agric., Euphytica).

Referee for Research grants (Australia, Canada, UK (BBSRC, Defra), USA (USDA)).

UK member of Groupe Consultatif International de Recherche sur le Colza (GCIRC), Paris, 1997

PhD Committee member, Wageningen, Netherlands & INRA (Thiverval-Grignon), France, 1995-Chairman (organizer), Crop Protection, International Rapeseed Congress, Cambridge, 1995 Session Organiser, BCPC Conferences, Brighton, 1996, 1998, 2000

Examiner for Australian, Indian, French & UK Ph.D. theses (1991, 1993, 1999, 2003)

Recent Publications

West, J.S., Biddulph, J.E., **Fitt, B.D.L.**, & Gladders, P. (1999). Epidemiology of *Leptosphaeria maculans* in relation to forecasting stem canker severity on winter oilseed rape in the UK. *Annals of Applied Biology* **135**, 535-54.

West, J.S., Kharbanda, P., Barbetti, M.J. & **Fitt, B.D.L.** (2001). Epidemiology and management of *Leptosphaeria maculans* (phoma stem canker) in Australia, Canada and Europe. *Plant Pathology* **50**, 10-27.

Huang, Y.J., Toscano-Underwood, C., **Fitt, B.D.L.**, Todd, A.D., West, J.S., Koopmann, B. & Balesdent, M.H. (2001). Effects of temperature on germination and hyphal growth from ascospores of A-group and B-group *Leptosphaeria maculans* (phoma stem canker of oilseed rape). *Annals of Applied Biology* **139**, 193-207.

West, J.S., Balesdent, M.-H., Rouxel, T., Nancy, J.P., Huang, Y.-J., Roux, J., Steed, J.M. **Fitt, B.D.L.** & Schmit, J. (2002). Colonisation of winter oilseed rape tissues by A/Tox⁺ and B/Tox⁰ *Leptosphaeria maculans* (phoma stem canker) in France and England. *Plant Pathology* **51**, 311-321.

Huang, Y.-J., Toscano-Underwood, C., **Fitt, B.D.L.**, Hu, X.-J. & Hall, A.M. (2003). Effects of temperature on ascospore germination and penetration of oilseed rape (*Brassica napus*) leaves by A-group or B-group *Leptosphaeria maculans* (phoma stem canker). *Plant Pathology* (in press).

Evans, N., Baierl, A., Brain, P., Welham, S.J. & **Fitt, B.D.L.** (2003). Spatial aspects of light leaf spot (*Pyrenopeziza brassicae*) epidemic development on winter oilseed rape (*Brassica napus*) in the UK. *Phytopathology* (in press).