Foliar applied potassium nitrate suppressed Alternaria leaf blight in cotton

In a trial in Australia, 13 kg KNO_3 per ha per spray was applied four times in a cotton crop and compared with the control. The first application was 7 days before flowering and the three applications after flowering were carried out at two-weekly intervals. The sprays significantly (P<0,05) reduced the mean disease incidence, disease severity and leaf shedding assessed (Table 1). Foliar application of KNO_3 may be effective in reducing the effect of

Alternaria

leaf blight of cotton (

Gossypium hirsutum

) in north Australia.

Table 1. Mean incidence, severity and number of leaves shed due to Alternaria leaf blight of cotton at Katharine Res. Station 2004.

Treatment	Incidence (%)	Severity (0-20)	Nr of leaves shed from main stem
KNO_3	90,94	9,13	2,39
Control	92,34	9,84	2,72
Prob. (n=145)	P = 0,048	P < 0,001	P < 0,001