

## **Nufarm expected to release new 2,4-D formulation to the Australian market**

The leading manufacturer of 2,4-D products in Australia, Nufarm Limited has continued to “push the boundaries” with a new formulation will be available in August.

According to Nufarm’s Formulation Coordinator, Ari Panayi, the proposed new formulation presents a higher load dual salt 2,4-D, which will provide more flexibility for growers.

“2,4-D has always been a core business for Nufarm. For this reason we have continued to lead the field, developing new formulations for the Australian and global markets,” said Mr Panayi.

Through extensive research and development, Nufarm has identified that cold stability, compatibility, and ease of use have presented the biggest issues with 2,4-D products in Australia.

The new 2,4-D formulation is set to combat all of these issues aiming to be the leading product on the market.

Mr Panayi believes growers are continuing to mix a range of products in order to save time. This is where 2,4-D has presented some problems in the past – particularly when mixed with glyphosate.

“Many glyphosate formulations are based on IPA salt, hence why Nufarm have previously developed a 2,4-D IPA salt to be compatible with glyphosate,” he said.

But as new glyphosate formulations are being developed, Nufarm will be looking to incorporate other glyphosate salt formulation types, such as potassium salt in their 2,4-D product compatibility studies.

“It has been proven that mixing a glyphosate salt such as potassium with an IPA 2,4-D salt can result in crystallising and causing blockages in tanks,” said Mr Panayi.

“We are aiming to formulate 2,4-D products that perform in the market place – so at the development stage we ensure our products will be compatible with a wide range of products.”

When comparing many generic 2,4-D products currently available to growers, Nufarm’s formulation team have noticed many compatibility issues arising when they are mixed with glyphosate products.

“Many generic products are based on a IPA or DMA salt formulations, which are not compatible with potassium salt glyphosate formulations resulting in growers facing problems at application stage,” said Mr Panayi.

The new 2,4-D product is also expected to be stable under cold conditions – something that many competitor products have failed to achieve in the past.

Mr Panayi acknowledges that 2,4-D products need to be stable when in cold conditions (under five degrees Celsius) to avoid crystallisation issues and the active falling out, causing blockages in filters and tanks.

“Water quality and the probable use of low water rates should also be taken onto account when developing new formulations, particularly in Australia’s conditions,” he said.

“All products formulated at Nufarm are aimed to be compatible up to 1000 parts per million water hardness, which is double the Australian regulatory guidelines and in this case tested with low water rates.”

Nufarm is expected to release the new formulation 2,4-D in a matter of months. According to Mr Panayi the new product will offer unbeatable compatibility with most glyphosate formulations including Roundup PowerMAX.

“The new 2,4-D formulation will deliver excellent performance against broadleaf summer weeds,” he said.

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