

NUFARM LAUNCH POWERFUL NEW SURPASS

A new, 50% stronger 2,4-D featuring improved compatibilities with a wide range of glyphosates, most specifically with Roundup PowerMAX, is set to redefine the summer fallow weed control market.

To be marketed under the trusted Surpass brand, this new line extension from Nufarm will be called Surpass 475 and is part of Nufarm's on-going formulation development program.

According to Business Manager Geoff Raymond, the new Surpass 475 formulation has also allowed Nufarm to increase the active loading by more than 50% from the previous 300g/L.

This has resulted in a more concentrated product with the benefits of reduced handling and transport along with having to handle fewer containers.

Mr Raymond explains, the original Surpass 300 was developed to be compatible with the then market leading product Roundup CT as both are based on the isopropylamine (IPA) salt. The subsequent development of glyphosate however, has included a variety of salts that have proven to be less compatible with some 2,4-D formulations.

He uses Roundup PowerMAX as an example of a glyphosate formulation based on the potassium salt (K), which will challenge compatibility profiles with 2,4-D and a range of other products.

“In situations where water quality is questionable or low water volumes are used with high rates of each product, or there is more Surpass 300 than Roundup PowerMAX, compatibility of the mix can not always be guaranteed.

The new Surpass 475 has been formulated to tight manufacturing tolerances involving precise chemical engineering. This has created a product of such consistency that it can be applied alone or as a tank mix partner with Roundup PowerMAX and most other glyphosate formulations,” said Mr Raymond.

Farmers now have a product they can rely on to confidently mix with glyphosate formulations to improve broadleaf weed control in fallow and pre-plant situations.

It is pointed out that although the Surpass 475 formulation is different to the Surpass 300 formulation, it is still a non-volatile 2,4-D formulation that contains a sequestering agent.

“This additive sequesters or binds calcium and magnesium ions, especially in hard water, so that these ions are not available to react with the 2,4-D. If calcium and magnesium ions do react with 2,4-D they can form an insoluble crystalline precipitate that will drop out of solution,” Mr Raymond said.

For growers this could lead to filter blockages in the spray lines as well as a reduction of the amount of 2,4-D available, reducing efficacy. However the use of a sequestering agent allows the active present in the formulation to remain in solution without causing filter blockages, and allowing the 2,4-D to remain in its active form.

Nufarm have packaged Surpass 475 into standard plastic containers for easy manoeuvrability and handling. The product will also be available in 20L plastic containers, which have been requested by many growers.

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