

Nufarm announces new Acrobat SC formulation

Managing crop protection strategies to minimise chemical resistance is nothing new. It is a key reason behind Nufarm's commitment to continual development of new and existing products.

This focus on research has resulted in the recent launch of Acrobat® SC. It is an improved formulation for this key product to move from a wettable powder to a suspension concentrate.

Acrobat is a particularly important fungicide for vegetable growers in tackling downy mildew. Doug Wilson, Nufarm R&D project coordinator, explains further.

"Acrobat is the only member of the Fungicide Resistance Group 40 registered in Australia for protection against the various species of downy mildew that infect lettuce, cucurbit and onion crops," said Mr Wilson.

"With a different mode of action, the active ingredient in Acrobat is systemic and rapidly penetrates crop leave. It causes rupturing of the fungal cell walls, killing the infection."

"The use of alternative, rotating chemistry is essential when trying to avoid the development of resistant strains of plant disease."

Ben Coombe, Nufarm horticulture manager for Victoria and Tasmania, agrees that most growers are aware of the potential problem of fungicide resistance and the need to manage it effectively.

With the launch of the new Acrobat SC formulation, the benefits of this key fungicide now come in an easier-to-use package.

"Acrobat SC is ideal as a preventative treatment and growers use it strategically in their management plans when conditions favour the development of downy mildew," Mr Coombe said.

"Some of them refer to Acrobat as the 'Rolls Royce' treatment. It is an important product in managing crop health because it's active in a way that's different to other treatments on the market.

"The new SC formulation simply means easier handling for growers – there's less dust and mess when mixing, which obviously has improved health and safety aspects."

Acrobat provides protectant, curative and anti-sporulant activity at most stages of the fungal lifecycle which helps to prevent further spread of the disease after initial infection. It must only be applied in a tank mixture with Polyram® DF or mancozeb (e.g. Penncozeb® 750DF), and is rainfast two hours after application.

More information about Acrobat SC can be found at www.nufarm.com.au.
