

Opus outstrips opponents

The devil is in the detail, or so the saying goes.

According to Geoff Raymond, Nufarm national business manager, this is especially true when it comes to the Opus® fungicide formulation.

“The epoxiconazole molecule in Opus was developed by BASF so it has over 15 years of research and development invested in its formulation. It’s this knowledge and quality that is proving to be the difference between the original product and generics when it comes to performance,” he said.

Part of the triazole group of cereal fungicides, Opus has protective, curative and eradicant attributes. It has set the benchmark for epoxiconazole formulations, which is being borne out by independent research.

“An independent trial conducted in New Zealand in 2007/08 clearly demonstrated Opus’ superior performance when compared with a generic epoxiconazole treatment. The efficacy differences resulted in higher average yields for the Opus treated crops, which translates into greater returns for growers at the end of the season,” explained Geoff.

“When you look at Opus through a microscope the difference in the quality of the formulation is clear. The generic product is inconsistent with crystals and aggregates forming which can lead to residue build up and blockages in equipment.”

Recent innovative testing by BASF clearly demonstrates why Opus performs so much better than its generic counterparts.

“Part of the effectiveness of a product like Opus is how well it sticks or binds to the plant. The BASF researchers set up a high speed imaging machine to look at how droplets applied using air induction nozzles act on the surface of a wheat leaf. The results were amazing,” Geoff said.

“The footage showed that when the Opus droplet hit the leaf it was retained on the surface, whereas the generic formulation bounced off.

“In practical terms, when a wheat crop is sprayed with the leaves in a more vertical position, using Opus means there is more chemical on the plant.

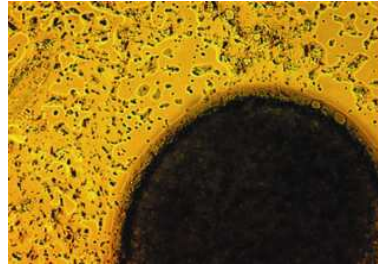
Results from the research showed the primary binding capability of Opus achieving 100 percent, with the generic formulation at 10-15 percent.

“We have always known that Opus is a superior formulation. Now with this fascinating footage thanks to the latest technology everyone can see why.”

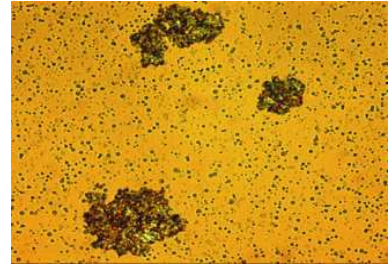
Formulation consistency *(all images have also been supplied separately)*



Opus 125 - consistent formulation.



Generic 125g/L epoxiconazole -
inconsistent formulation with
crystals forming



Generic 125g/L epoxiconazole -
inconsistent formulation with
aggregates forming

Superior tankmix compatibility *(all images have also been supplied separately)*



Opus tank mixture through a
300µm sieve



Generic epoxiconazole tank
mixture through a 300µm sieve
