

Opus 75

Since the threat of Black Sigatoka, Tully banana growers are now more active in the monitoring and management of leaf diseases. As a part of improving disease management, this season a number of growers are trialling a new fungicide, Opus 75. Opus 75 is a new DMI fungicide (Group C) from Nufarm that contains 75 g/L of the active constituent, epoxiconazole. Opus 75 is currently being trialled under an experimental permit for aerial application.

Leon Collins, a Tully banana grower, is trialling Opus 75 on his 300ha property. When Nufarm approached Leon about participating in a trial he quickly signed up.

“It (Opus 75) fits into the program of normal spray application. Everything is favourable. We are not getting any fruit burn, not getting any leaf burn, it’s all good.” Leon said.

Leon also mentioned that it was important for growers to use Opus 75 appropriately and not to overuse it.

“We’ve always got to be looking for new stuff. You don’t want to get resistance to it.” Leon said.

“You’ve just got to have everything available to you. Because if we’re not careful we’re going to run out of everything.”

Nufarm Research and Development Officer, Andrew Horsfield, is working with growers to monitor trial blocks treated with Opus 75. Information on efficacy and crop safety will be recorded from trial blocks and the results will be used to support the registration of Opus 75 for aerial application.

Andrew said so far all the feedback on Opus 75 has been very positive.

“Opus 75 has been under development in Australia for a number of years. We know that Opus 75 is a highly effective protectant and curative fungicide. Field trials in Australia, as well as widespread commercial use in Central American banana production, have proven that Opus 75 is less susceptible than other DMI’s to the development of fungicide resistance.” Andrew said.

“Opus 75 has already gained registration in Australia for ground application. These aerial trials will help to provide growers with confidence in the product. If all goes as planned we should have aerial registration of Opus 75 later this year.” Andrew said.

In addition to the experimental permit for Opus 75, Nufarm have developed a set of banana spray programs in consultation with Queensland Department of Primary Industries Plant Pathologists. These programs provide banana growers with recommendations for the use of Opus 75 and other fungicides. By following these programs, growers only apply products that are required while still maintaining a high level of disease control and avoiding fungicide resistance.
