

## Nufarm working hard to meet locust demand

Early September saw the anticipated locusts begin to emerge, with management pressure expected to mount quickly into October.

Nufarm Australia business manager Geoff Raymond says that months of planning have been undertaken to ensure the best possible preparation for locust management options.

“We have been working on our supply position for over six months now, since it became obvious in March and April that there was a very real threat of locust plagues this spring,” he said.

“Close consultation and ongoing coordination with the Australian Plague Locust Commission and relevant state departments has been critical to determine requirements and ensure availability of locust management products. We’re in contact with these groups and distribution partners weekly, if not more often at the moment.”

Nufarm will have three times more insecticide products available this season compared with an average years’ requirement for locust management and other crop needs. These include Astound Duo, Fastac Duo, Adonis, Regent and Fenitrothion.

“Essentially, we will have manufactured enough product to treat more than five million hectares for locusts in 2010,” Geoff explained.

“With around 60 percent of all orders now delivered, our remaining product orders will be delivered by mid to late October. Deliveries are going to the areas where hatching is occurring earliest first.

It’s not too late for growers to order treatment products, but they need to get organised quickly.

“We have prepared as well as we can, given the indeterminate size of the threat, but with a large proportion of our product supplies already allocated, growers that aren’t organised need to put their hand up sooner rather than later to ensure they have an appropriate treatment option,” Geoff said.

“Given the level of demand, new orders of some products are already under pressure, even taking into account that we have been able to secure additional supplies of some actives.”

There will be very limited additional supplies of Astound Duo as most has already been allocated. Regent may also be limited as consideration is made for needs other than locust management, such as cotton market demand.

“Fenitrothion will be available – we have arranged for more than four times product supply compared with what would normally be used in an average season. But again, it is expected to be taken up quickly with new orders,” he continued.

“Alternative products, Chlorpyrifos and Maldison, will be tight as our production facilities are at capacity with the increased insecticide demand.”

Nufarm’s production facilities are working multiple shifts, producing insecticides and the other crop protection products that will be required in the coming months.

“Advance planning has been done, with contingencies such as periods of formulation double shifts and the use of additional toll production capacity in place to handle the expected demand,” he said.

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To help provide the latest information to distribution partners and farmers, a dedicated area of Nufarm's website has been set up, [www.nufarm.com.au/locusts](http://www.nufarm.com.au/locusts). It is regularly updated with supply information, product selection and use information, application tools and links to government and industry sites.

"The need to have locust products available for farmers and the urgency with which they will be required is our clear priority. We are doing everything in our power to help farmers and the industry be as prepared as possible for this fight."

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