

Media Release



18/01/07

Australia's leading agricultural chemical company, Nufarm Limited, has developed a new formulation of low volatile 2,4-D ester, Estercide Xtra®.

To be released to the market in February 2007, Estercide Extra® is the latest advancement in low ester formulation technology that enables Nufarm to continue to lead developments with the 2,4-D molecule in Australia.

According to Geoff Raymond, Business Manager, Nufarm Limited, the new formulation development will meet the needs of Australian farmers as they move away from the use of high volatile formulations for broadleaf fallow, pre-plant and incrop weed control.

"Estercide Xtra® has the highest active loading of 680g/L available using current formulation technology," he said.

"Nufarm have been able to increase the active loading and build in emulsifiers and stabilisers so that the product emulsifies quickly and the emulsion remains stable when used under most Australian conditions."

Data recorded from trial work completed by Nufarm has demonstrated that Estercide Extra® has excellent compatibility with most glyphosate formulations and has been extensively tested with Roundup PowerMAX® and Roundup CT®.

These trials concluded that the addition of Estercide Xtra® to Roundup PowerMAX® improves the control of a range of broadleaf weeds over the use of Roundup PowerMAX® alone.

Mr Raymond said the addition of Estercide Xtra® to Roundup PowerMAX® significantly improved the brownout and overall control of range of weeds. Estercide Xtra can also be used alone to control a wide range of broadleaf weeds.

"Estercide Xtra® has been compared to a range of Nufarm phenoxy herbicides with and without the addition of Roundup PowerMAX® and in all cases gave control equal to or better than the levels of control obtained using these products," said Mr Raymond.

The new formulation, Estercide Xtra® also boasts a low odour formulation and stability in cold temperatures.

Farmers will find this low odour formulation easier to work with as worker exposure to offensive odours is reduced which allows operators to spend more time on the spray rig and cover more ground in each days spraying application.

Mr Raymond reveals that Estercide Xtra® is a cold temperature stable formulation that will stay intact when mixed and used in cold conditions.

“Farmers can have confidence that Nufarm’s Estercide Xtra® will work in a variety of conditions in varying temperature regimes to give reliable, efficient weed control.”

The extended drought and the reduced availability of good water quality for spray applications requires that any new formulation must be able to mix well in water of varying quality.

This is one characteristic that Estercide Extra® can boast – it emulsifies well in a range of different test waters, including water with hardness levels up to 1000 parts per million and in saline alkaline water which is typical in many regions throughout Australia.

Nufarm, in making a solventless formulation, have been able to package Estercide Xtra® in standard (high density polyethylene) HDPE 20 litre containers that are lightweight, durable and easy to transport and store.

“Estercide Xtra® is designed to give versatile, robust performance throughout Australia’s geographic spread under a variety of climatic conditions. Farmers can rely on the performance of Estercide Xtra in fallow, pre-plant and incrop for the control of a wide range of weeds,” said Mr Raymond.

ENDS....

Further information:

Geoff Raymond
Business Manager
Nufarm Australia Limited
Ph. (03) 92821426
Mob. 0428 524537
Email: geoff.raymond@au.nufarm.com