

Media Release



As grain growing in Australia continues to evolve over time, many regard no till farming as the major revolution – one, which has increased growers emphasis on herbicide management.

This is why Australian owned chemical company, Nufarm Ltd has continued to offer local knowledge and support to assist in delivering the results Australian farmers demand for long term sustainability.

Nufarm is the leading manufacturer of crop protection products in Australia and has developed a reputation for manufacturing and formulating products to suit Australian climatic and weather conditions.

Angus MacLennan, Research and Development officer for southern NSW is just one key link in the Nufarm team to achieving these goals.

Based at Wagga Wagga, Mr MacLennan has spent five cropping seasons in the Riverina region, NSW, and has developed a good understanding of the practises and needs of farmers, says Nufarm's Australian Research and Development Manager Andrew Wells.

“Angus conducts a range of trials as part of a national program that identifies the strengths and weaknesses of Nufarm products to determine how they can best suit growers in the southern NSW region,” he said

Mr Wells points out that Angus acts as a channel for delivering information that has been compiled by Nufarm's research and development team from other regions across the country, which could be relevant to growers in southern NSW.

Venturing into his sixth year in the region, Mr MacLennan admits that a lot has changed in research and development with a significant increase in the number of products available on the market.

“Due to our historical heavy reliance on group B herbicides such as Glean and Logran for the control of Annual ryegrass we have seen an escalation in the levels of resistance to this herbicide group and with an increasing presence of Brome and Barley Grass, the pressure doesn't appear to be easing off.

Added to this is a growing rate of an already high level of group A resistance which further limits our options,” he said.

“Nufarm has been very proactive in promoting the rotation of herbicides to prevent resistance.”

He uses the introduction of Nufarm’s latest development available to growers –Triflur Xcel (group D) as well as products such as Avadex Xtra (group E), Diuron (group C), Simazine (group C) and Bouncer (group K), as options for growers to reduce the pressure placed on group A and B herbicides.

Triflur Xcel is a Nufarm proprietary formulation and a world first technology that provides broad-spectrum weed control. With compatibility technology, it will allow growers to fertilise and control weeds and insects in one pass, and then sow.

Mr MacLennan says the ability to mix multiple products with Triflur Xcel in the tank, particularly products from different herbicide groups, will be a tool for growers to combat developing resistance.

“Nufarm has brought to the market a product that can deliver a spectrum of tank mix options. In a minimum till situation growers might include an insecticide and Roundup PowerMax as a knockdown to better set up their crop.”

Proposing two tank mix examples to growers in southern NSW, Mr MacLennan includes a range of products that can be mixed with Triflur Xcel to prevent resistance.

“For weed control in TT canola and lupins, Triflur Xcel can be tank mixed with Simazine, Roundup PowerMax, Avadex Xtra and Chlorpyrifos.

In wheat, Triflur Xcel mixed with Roundup PowerMax, Diuron, Nugran, Avadex Xtra, or in barley Triflur Xcel Roundup PowerMax , Diuron and Metribuzin will provide broad-spectrum weed control,” he said.

Another focus that Mr MacLennan identifies as a significant issue to controlling weeds in southern NSW is regulation of chemical application.

“Nufarm have been very proactive in providing growers with information on the benefits of correct chemical application, particularly 2,4-D,” he said.

After the widespread drought that was experienced across most of the country in 2006 Mr MacLennan believes areas in southern NSW are likely to see a large increase in the amount of farming country that gets cropped this year.

“Triflur Xcel will give farmers the opportunity to not only tank mix a range of herbicide groups providing a one pass resistance tool but also in doing so dramatically expand there weed spectrums and reduce reliance on expensive post emergent herbicides.”

“The other benefit of using pre-emergents is that it controls weeds early in the crops development preventing them from robbing the crop of vital moisture and nutrients which helps the crop to reach it’s maximum potential,” he said.

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Further information:

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