

Welcome to the latest edition of Crop Mail, a newsletter to keep you up to date with what's happening at Crop Care. Crop Care continues to develop new products and practical solutions for growers to keep pace with their ever-changing needs.

Product News

Stripe rust protection from fungicide applied at planting



Good results have been achieved with fungicide applied via a liquid injection system at planting on the property of John Bruce, of Boomanoomana, in southern New South Wales.

Mr Bruce, who farms above the border near Yarrowonga, planted 1500 acres of wheat and barley last season.

The fungicide Intake® Combi and nutrients were applied in a stream on the fertiliser behind the planter tine using a custom-made liquid injection system, designed and supplied by Allspares & Bearings, based in Yarrowonga.

Intake Combi, is used to control stripe rust, septoria tritici blotch and take-all in wheat and powdery mildew and scald in barley.

Mr Bruce said he had been considering using Intake Combi for a number of seasons but had been a bit concerned about the application of the product, which is normally sprayed onto granulated fertiliser and mixed prior to the fertiliser being placed in the paddock.

With soil samples conducted throughout the property and fertiliser applications varying between 50 and 90 kilograms per hectare, the amount of fungicide applied would range up and down and be dependent upon the nutritional needs of individual paddocks.

To enable a consistent application of fungicide on each hectare, Mr Bruce purchased the main components of the custom-made liquid injection system.

The system was utilised to place the fungicide Intake® Combi and liquid zinc in a stream on the fertiliser behind the planter tine.

Mr Bruce said by utilizing an existing tank and pump, the system cost between \$4500 and \$5000 to set-up and provided flexibility at planting, with the option of applying a number of products at the same time.

"It was good to do it myself," Mr Bruce said. "It worked really well by dropping it behind the tine."

The application of the fungicide in liquid form also provided a consistent coverage across the area with the product used in one continuous stream rather than on the fertiliser in a more variable pattern.

Mr Bruce said the Intake Combi did an excellent job of controlling outbreaks of stripe rust, which have been a major concern for growers in the areas for a number of years.

He said the crops were planted just after Anzac Day and did not receive any further fungicide until late in September as part of an insecticide application to control aphids.

"If I didn't have to control the crop for aphids I don't think I would have needed another fungicide spray," he said. "It did the job well."

During the previous season, with no Intake Combi fungicide applied at planting, the cereal crops were sprayed with fungicide twice throughout the year.

"I think it saved us at least one foliar spray this year," Mr Bruce said.

The application of Intake Combi was to combat the gap between planting the first in-crop spraying.

"We are not putting it out just in case," Mr Bruce said. He said there was always a lot of work to do throughout the season so the saving of a spray and the early protection against disease from the Intake Combi was very positive.

The property has both livestock and cropping with lucerne pasture undersown to some cereal paddocks and then used as sheep feed for three to four years.

Although pasture is used in the rotation, some paddocks this season were on their fourth year of cereal crops and so disease is of concern.

Intake Combi also controls take-all which can become an issue in paddocks where wheat is grown in back to back situations.

This season was quite tough early with September rain ideal for crops which were just starting to stress under the conditions.

Mr Bruce said the crops looked very good and yields were expected to be around 3 tonnes per hectare.



John Bruce, who farms at Boomanoomana, in southern New South Wales, just north of Yarrowonga, has had excellent results with Intake® Combi fungicide applied through a custom Made Liquid Injection System.



Regulatory Affairs News



Spray Drift Buffer Zones

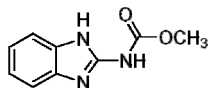
Mandatory no-spray zones and droplet size requirements will be progressively appearing on product labels over the coming months.

Four categories of no-spray zones will be considered for each product ie. for the protection of human health, the aquatic environment, the terrestrial environment and of international trade. Written spray records detailing each spray application will also be a requirement.



Regulatory Affairs News

Carbendazim Update



Interim outcomes from the APVMA's review of carbendazim are that carbendazim will no longer be approved for use on grapes, cucurbits (including melons), citrus fruits, custard apples, mangoes, pome fruits, stone fruits and turf. Carbendazim has also been rescheduled to an S7 (Dangerous Poison). All product now supplied from manufacturers must have a copy of the new instructions affixed to the container and the product must be used in accordance with these new instructions. Product in the supply chain prior to the 25 January 2010, may be used in accordance with the existing

INTAKE[®] HiLOAD[®] In-Furrow & Foliar Fungicide (500g/L Flutriafol)

This new product is now registered at a higher application rate for in-furrow use in wheat to provide extended protection against stripe rust for 130 - 140 days.

GM Canola in WA



The Western Australia decision to lift the moratorium on genetically modified canola means that GM canola is now approved for commercial production by the state governments of NSW, Victoria and now Western Australia. South Australia is the only mainland canola producing state that bans the commercial planting of GM canola (Tasmania continues to ban the growing of all GM crops).

Important Fungicide Registration Changes for Pulse Crops



New labels for Barrack 720 and Barrack Betterstick have been approved by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Association (APVMA) to include chick peas and lentils and to allow grazing of treated crops.

This important fungicide chlorothalonil is already widely used by the Australian horticultural industry, and registration changes now allow its use by pulse growers to control *Ascochyta* blight (*Ascochyta rabeie* and *A.lentis*) in chickpeas and lentils; grey mould (*Botrytis cinerea* and *B. fabae*) in lentils; as well as the current use for control of chocolate spot (*B. fabae*) and rust (*Uromyces viciae-fabae*) in broad (faba) beans.

Pulse growers had previously been able to use chlorothalonil products (but not to graze treated crops) under a permit held by Pulse Australia. That permit expired on November 30, 2009. Now the only products registered for use – and allowing grazing of treated crops – are Barrack 720, Barrack Betterstick and Nufarm's Unite 720[®].

This result for pulse growers has been achieved by years of R&D effort by Crop Care and Nufarm, and a 4-year registration process with the APVMA. The research included extensive livestock feeding trials to provide information about feeding chlorothalonil - treated pulse fodder and hay to livestock – and the potential trade implications.

The registration change has the following important implications for pulse growers.

- Barrack 720, Barrack Betterstick and Unite 720 are the only chlorothalonil products registered for use on chick peas and lentils.

- Pulse growers can now graze Barrack 720, Barrack Betterstick and Unite 720-treated crops - as long as they observe the grazing/cutting for stockfeed withholding period (WHP) of 14 days in faba beans, chickpeas and lentils.
- Faba bean harvest WHP has been increased from 7 days to 14 days.
- For livestock being sold or slaughtered for export markets, an Export Slaughter Interval of 63 days (9 weeks) must be observed after grazing treated crops.
- Treated crops are not to be fed to livestock producing milk for human consumption.

Crop Care advises growers that as protectant fungicides, chlorothalonil based products should be applied before diseases become established, and that disease-warning systems and past history be used to determine the timing of first spraying.



Chick Pea Crop



For more information:

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New Faces



Steve Andrews has joined the Crop Care Team as Technical Sales Representative servicing Southern Victoria. Steve comes to Crop Care with diverse experience in many agricultural fields. Steve was brought up on a dairy farm in the Western district before heading off to University in Melbourne to obtain a degree in Business. Steve worked in the flower industry before running his own flower operation for 5 years in the Yarra Valley. He then started with Elders in their banking arm before moving into their Merchandise operation where he spent over 12 years. Based in Victoria, he had a number of roles from State Analyst to Business Development Manager to Regional Manager Gippsland. His final 2 years were spent in Adelaide as a National Business Development Manager. Before returning home to Melbourne to join the Crop Care team. Now based in the Yarra Valley, Steve is excited by the new challenges this role presents. He enjoys working with people, adding value and achieving results. Steve is married to Julie and has 3 beautiful girls, Chloe, Charlotte and Hannah.



New Faces

Paul Geister has joined the Crop Care Team as a Technical Sales Representative servicing the Riverland Districts in South Australia and the Sunraysia / Mallee Region in the North West corner of Victoria.



Paul comes to Crop Care with extensive knowledge in many agricultural crops. He was raised on a Broadacre cropping farm in Mid North – South Australia before heading off to Roseworthy Ag College to do an Ag Science Degree.

He then commenced as a broadacre agronomist with Elders based in Roseworthy for 5 years before joining Nufarm in 2003 where he held various positions including Territory Manager in the Riverland Sunraysia area, Horticulture Manager for VIC/AS based in Melbourne and recently as a Regional Manager for Northern NSW and Southern Queensland based in Brisbane where he worked closely with his team and great customer base.

Paul is excited about the move back to Mildura with him his wife Sherrie and their three boys Dusty, Colby and Levi.

He is looking forward to working closely with his customer base and establishing some strong relationships, while applying some of the experience he has gained in his travels to extract some value for them from the competitive market place we are currently in.

Feature Story

Bill Gates becomes modern agricultures greatest proponent



It wasn't reported on the front page of *The New York Times*. You didn't hear about it on the evening news. But last October's World Food Prize Symposium in Des Moines, Iowa, could make history and have a profound impact on the business of agriculture.

The take-home message from the symposium was that we must use agricultural technology to feed humanity, improve the environment and reduce the incidence of disease. That message has been delivered by many before, of course, but this time the message came from a powerful, yet benevolent voice — Microsoft founder Bill Gates.

Gates is the world's wealthiest man, reportedly worth more than \$40 billion — enough to buy the world a Big Mac. But he's more interested in helping fund a new green revolution, and he's telling the world it should be "greener than the first."

Through the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, hundreds of millions of dollars have been targeted toward health and food programs for some of the poorest people in the world. But Gates' vision is even greater. In his first major address on agriculture, Gates called on governments, researchers, environmentalists and others to "set aside old visions and join forces" to help millions of farmers. He also announced a \$120 million package of agriculture-related grants to nine institutions around the world.

"Environmentalists are standing in the way of feeding humanity through their opposition to biotechnology, farm chemicals and nitrogen fertilizer," Gates said.

Gates' speech was stunning because of his powerful influence in Washington and throughout the world.

Dennis Avery, director of the Center for Global Food Issues and a former agriculture analyst for the U.S. Department of State, said, "Gates could have said with equal truth that the same environmentalists, by demanding organic-only farming, are risking the future of the planet's wildlife. The world will need more than twice as much food by 2050 to feed a peak population of 8 billion affluent humans and their pets.

"Gates believes we should get that additional food from higher yields on the 37% of the earth's land area we already farm, not by threatening massive numbers of wildlife species by clearing more land for low-yield crops."

"Gates has thus delivered the most important speech on food and the world's future since Dr. Norman Borlaug accepted his 1970 Nobel Peace Prize," Avery said.

The Gates Foundation has infused \$1.4 billion into agricultural development in Africa and South Asia over the past three years. He argues that the "ideological wedge" between groups who disregard environmental concerns and groups who discount productivity gains could thwart major breakthroughs that are within reach.

"It's a false choice, and it's dangerous for the field," Gates said. "It blocks important advances. It breeds hostility among people who need to work together.

"And it makes it hard to launch a comprehensive program to help poor farmers. The fact is, we need both productivity and sustainability — and there is no reason we can't have both."

The World Food Prize and the annual conference where it is awarded was founded by Nobel Peace Prize winner Norman Borlaug, a crop scientist known as the father of the green revolution. Borlaug, 95, died in September.

Ethiopian scientist Gebisa Ejeta, now a professor at Purdue University, received this year's \$250,000 prize. Ejeta was recognized for his breakthroughs in developing a drought resistant sorghum widely used in Africa.

Gates said the environment can benefit from increased productivity.

"When productivity is too low, people start farming on grazing land, cutting down forests, using any new acreage they can. When productivity is high, people can farm on less land," he said.

He said the world needs to develop crops that can grow in the world's harshest conditions and survive drought and floods, while producing higher yields. He called on research companies to use technology they've developed for big agriculture and adapt it for the needs of small farmers. He also called on food companies to use their buying power to create markets for small farmers. With his visibility, personal wealth and commitment to combating disease and hunger, Gates has just become modern agriculture's greatest proponent. Let's make sure the world hears his message.

Clearfield

New Intervix Label

- High and low rate recommendations are now simplified.
- The compatibilities have now been put on the rear of the label in a clearer format.
- Supercharge is now the recommended adjuvant with Intervix.

You can now find the new Intervix label on the Products page of our website – www.cropcare.com.au

