

Supernova – Protecting the 2011 Horti Crop

1 April 2011

FRUIT and vegetable growers in the Australian tropics are experiencing seasonal conditions that favour the development of a range of important fungal diseases.

With 80% of Australia's mango supply in north Queensland; the Bowen region home to half of Queensland's tomato production and 30% of Queensland's melon supply; and with 30% of Queensland avocados grown on the Atherton Tableland, the valuable 2011 northern field and tree crops need strong and effective protection from fungal diseases.

Seasonal conditions that favour good plant growth are also favourable for fungal infection.

Crop Care has just registered a highly-effective fungicide, Supernova® 250SC, that will protect fruit and vegetable crops across the productive tropical north against a broad range of fungal diseases. The product is expected to be available in April.

The active ingredient in Supernova – azoxystrobin – is based on the strong, anti-fungal defence mechanism of specific forest mushrooms. It inhibits spore production, spore germination and mycelial growth, and is active at low doses against a wide range of pathogens.

This fungicide possesses an extremely broad spectrum of activity, protecting plants against the four major classes of fungal diseases – *Ascomycetes* (such as powdery mildew); *Deuteromycetes* (such as stem end rot, and target spot in potatoes); *Basidiomycetes* (such as rusts); and *Oomycetes* (such as downy mildew).

Supernova® will provide strong protectant activity against foliar and soil-borne fungal diseases in many fruit and vegetable crops - including stem end rot and anthracnose in mangoes and avocados; powdery mildew, downy mildew and botrytis bunch rot in grapevines; early and late blight, black scurf and silver scurf in potatoes; powdery mildew, downy mildew and gummy stem blight in cucurbits; alternaria and cladosporium in passionfruit; and early and late blight and sclerotinia in tomatoes.

As well as controlling fungal diseases, strobilurin fungicides provide positive effects on plant growth, and can enhance yield in certain crops.

Protecting the Effectiveness of this Valuable Fungicide

As Supernova is in the strobilurin chemical group (Group 11), Crop Care recommends responsible use of this fungicide – to preserve its effectiveness for future crops and seasons, and to minimise the development of disease resistance.

Crop Care horticulture business manager Kerrie Mackay: "As with any fungicide in the strobilurin group, we advise growers to use Supernova responsibly, as part of a spray program based on the rotational use of fungicides from different chemical groups, combined with good crop hygiene and management practices – including canopy management, and removal of plant debris.

"Don't wait until the disease develops, as this will reduce the effectiveness of control, and increase the risk of resistance.

"For best results don't use Supernova as a curative treatment, but as a protectant at crucial times in the crop cycle – for example, at early fruit-set in avocados; at flowering and early fruit-set in mangoes; during flowering and fruiting in passionfruit; and up to the fruit-set stage in cucurbits.

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“Potatoes can be protected from foliar diseases (early and late blight) and soil-borne fungal diseases (black scurf and silver scurf) from planting until 14 days before harvest. “Similarly tomatoes can be protected by Supernova from transplanting to fruit maturity with a protective spray program.

“Follow the spray instructions from the label – especially the number of sprays and ideal timing for each crop, and rotate with fungicides from other chemical groups.”

® Supernova is a registered trademark of Crop Care Australasia



Early Blight in Potatoes



Late Blight in Potatoes

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