

SPOTLIGHT PLUS – ONE PRODUCT FOR BOTH DESUCKERING AND ORCHARD WEED CONTROL

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GROWERS of tree fruit in Australia now have a registered product for chemically removing suckers, to replace the costly and time-consuming practice of hand removal with secateurs.

Fruitgrowers would already be familiar with Spotlight Plus® Herbicide as a specially developed 'spike' for mixing with knockdown herbicides, which enhances the control of a range of broadleaf weeds. Spotlight Plus is now registered for the control of unwanted suckers in tree fruits (including pome fruit, stone fruit and citrus fruit), olives, tree nuts and assorted tropical and sub-tropical fruits, as well as in grapevines.

Growers can now consider doing two important springtime tasks with one pass, setting up their spray unit with two tanks – one of Spotlight Plus directed at suckers, and the other of a Spotlight Plus-spiked herbicide tank mix for treeline spraying of important orchard weeds.

Sucker control

Australian trials have shown that Spotlight Plus provides rapid and thorough control of rootstock suckers, with no ill effects to the scions.

Prune plums were chosen for the trials, because of the major desuckering issues faced in establishing plum orchards - reliable rootstock also has a propensity to sucker. Also, prune plums are generally mechanically harvested, requiring a straight trunk for at least 1 meter above ground level. Applied to the suckers before lignification, Spotlight Plus provided successful desuckering in both three-year-old plantings and in nursery stock.

Directed spraying – preferably shielded and with nozzles producing a coarse to very coarse spray – is required to prevent Spotlight Plus coming into contact with green stem tissue, foliage, blooms or fruit.

Treeline spraying

In particular, Spotlight Plus has displayed excellent efficacy against some of the more difficult-to-control weeds such as small-flowered mallow.

Compatible with a wide range of knockdown herbicides, Spotlight Plus is a fast-acting contact herbicide, which is rainfast within an hour, with nil crop residues and no soil carryover when used as directed. Its built-in adjuvant maximises activity and minimises spray drift.

Adding Spotlight Plus to knockdown herbicides can increase both the speed and overall control of weeds in young or established tree fruits.



Good control of orchard weeds, including marshmallow, with Gladiator Maximum spiked with Spotlight Plus.



Severe desiccation of prune rootstock sucker growth after treatment with Spotlight Plus

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