

Horticulture products in the Pipeline from Crop Care

19 October 2007

Crop Care's Amulet Cue-Lure has been on the market for a year but is currently only registered for citrus, table grapes and stone fruit. An extension to all crops is expected later this year.

The product is a moulded recycled paper fly station which is designed to provide an environmentally friendly alternative to high volume fruit crop cover sprays, according to Doug Nuttall, Product Manager, Crop Care.

It contains a powerful parapheromone lure to attract male Queensland fruit fly and a low-dose fipronil insecticide to kill them after contact.

Its delayed mortality action enables male flies to mate after visiting the Amulet station, transferring a lethal dose to females.

"Growers have reported excellent results in the product's first year with a reduction in insecticide costs associated with cover sprays and a dramatic decrease in the occurrence of fruit fly damaged fruit," said Mr Nuttall.

Crop Care is also participating in industry CRC-funded research looking at the ecology of fruit fly with the aim of finding long term alternatives to the current post harvest dipping control methods available to Queensland and northern NSW fruit growers.

Several other new products are also in the pipeline for fruit and vegetable growers in 2007/2008.

"Barrack Betterstick was registered just in time for the spring horticulture season," said Kerrie Mackay, National Horticulture Manager.

"The product is a new formulation of chlorothalonil fungicide, which has been shown to provide long lasting residual protection for the control of a wide range of plant diseases.

"Trials in chickpeas and tomatoes show that its unique polymer system and smaller active ingredient particle size give superior rainfastness to Barrack, equivalent rainfastness to Bravo Weatherstik and better protection from disease infection."

Crop Care expects that an extensive trial program across Australia will see Dormex registered for management of budburst in apples next year.

The benefits of Dormex for apple crops were outlined to growers at a conference in Shepparton and may include earlier and more even budburst, reduced need for thinning sprays and higher yield and fruit size.

A Queensland permit for Crop Care's product Synergy with Talstar has now been granted to control silver leaf whitefly and sweet potato whitefly in a range of vegetable crops. Registration is expected for all states during November.

Next month a new registration for the product Spotlight Plus is expected, to give growers a valuable cost-saving tool for eliminating suckers in grape vines.

The oil and carfentrazone formulation minimises drift and potential damage to vines when applied according to label directions. There will also be other horticulture claims on the label.

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Crop Care's fungicide Shirlan – currently registered for control of a range of diseases in brassicas, apples and vines - has also been trialled in Australia as a soil application to control powdery scab in potatoes. Registration is expected later this year.

“In New Zealand, Shirlan is registered as a foliar spray to control a range of other potato diseases and Crop Care hopes to add these to the Australian label next year.”

Finally, Alliance, an amitrole and paraquat mix is expected to be registered for tree line and vine line spraying by mid next year.

“The combination of these two actives ensures good control of an extensive range of grasses and broadleaf weeds, with the added advantage of assisting to manage glyphosate resistance,” said Ms Mackay.

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