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Seasonal Progression

Day Degree accumulation to the 17th October.

District	Season 06/07	Season 05/06	Season 04/05	Hot Days	Hot Day Percentile
Emerald (from 15 th September)	356	409	401	1	40 th (30/50)*
Theodore (from 25 th September)	249	302	267	2	70 th (16/50)*

Crop Stages versus Day Degree Accumulation.

Emerg.	5 th leaf	1 st Sq	1 st Flow	Peak Flow	Cracked Boll	60% open
80	330	505	777	1302	1527	2050

*Refers to the No. of years in the last 50 that we have had the same number of Hot days within the same period.

Mirid Management

Mirids this year will again prove to be one of our key pests along with Whitefly. There has been a lot of research work done on this pest and it is still ongoing. At the National Whitefly and Sucking Pest workshop in Toowoomba last June a number of preliminary findings were discussed.

Some of the outcomes of the research that have been carried out so far have highlighted that differing threshold levels could be used at different phases of the crop. For instance squaring and late boll fill are 2 stages where a threshold of 4 – 5 mirids per metre could be tolerated from a beat sheet check, where as at early boll fill (the most susceptible stage) that threshold would drop down to 3 per metre. The reasoning for this is that at squaring the plant can compensate for any early losses without effecting yield, and at the other end of the scale once a boll is 20 days old it is almost impervious to Mirid damage (Khan, M. 2006).

It is important when monitoring for Mirids that fruit retention is also being monitored for damage levels. A lot of consultants find that the relationship between pest numbers and fruit retention is not always consistent.

The best chemical options were also discussed. Most researchers agreed that the best frontline chemicals in Mirid management were:

1. Fipronil (Regent) – 30 to 40ml rate*
2. Dimethoate (Rogor) – half rates*
3. Omethoate (Folimat) – half rates*
4. Endosulfan – Half to full rates

*with salt @ 10g/L of water.

Other chemicals that may have some suppression effects were:

1. Indoxacarb (Steward)
2. Chlorfenapyr (Intrepid) – Low rates.

There has been some anecdotal evidence that Lannate may have an impact on Mirids but this has been unproven at this stage. Imidacloprid's also control mirids however apart from seed dressings it has generally been agreed that this chemical is not recommended for in crop control. Synthetic Pyrethroids are also registered for Mirid control but are highly disruptive to beneficial's and are not recommended.

In regard to IPM there are a number of points to consider:

- Fipronil has a reputation for flaring mites and aphids at full rates (60 – 120ml). It also seems quite disruptive to Damsel bugs. It does have some effect on Green Vege Bugs.
- Endosulfan is an effective chemical for Mirids, Green Vege Bug and jassids.
- Dimethoate and Omethoate are both Organophosphates and at full rates are very disruptive to beneficial's however at half rates their effect is far less disruptive. The addition of Salt is like a food additive in that it encourages the pest to consume more of the active ingredient.
- If Steward is going to be used then the addition of salt may also increase the effectiveness of this chemical, although at best, it is thought that Steward will only control 70 % of the population.

Petroleum Spray Oils.

PSO's have been recommended in the past to help the effectiveness of applied chemicals against Mirids. This is still relevant although PSO's are more expensive than salt and the spray coverage must be excellent to get the best out of the product.

This information on Mirid Management was taken from the Synopsis of the National Whitefly and Sucking Pest Management Workshop held in Toowoomba on the 20th and 21st of June.

Regent Label Update

Last week (11th October 2006) the APVMA approved the changes to the Regent label.

The Regent label now reads:

“Dangerous to bees. DO NOT apply where bees from managed hives are known to be foraging, and crops, weeds or cover crops are in flower at the time of spraying, or are expected to flower within 28 days (7 days for pastures and sorghum).

Before spraying, notify beekeepers to move hives to a safe location with an untreated source of nectar, if there is potential for managed bees to be affected by the spray or spray drift. If an area has been sprayed inadvertently, in which the crop, weeds or cover crop were in flower or subsequently came into flower, notify beekeepers in order to keep managed bees out of the area for at least 28 days (7 days for pastures & sorghum) from the time of spraying.” Please note that this statement can be found towards the end of the label under the heading

Protection of Livestock & in the 'direction of use table' the user will be referred to this section of the label. If you have any questions or require further information please feel free to contact; Kylie Calderwood

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Date Claimer:

October 20th Friday – CHCG&IA Golf Day, 3 ball Ambrose. Team nominations to Tony Ronnfeldt 0417284991.