

# Greyback grubs are on the march!

Increasing areas of greyback grub damage have been evident in this year's crop through the Mackay and Plane Creek districts, costing growers in lost production. Unfortunately, even some fields treated with granular (suSCon maxi Intel®) or liquid imidacloprid (Confidor® Guard, Nuprid® etc) products have suffered damage and stool tipping.

"In all cases inspected by our team, where damage had occurred in treated cane, product placement was incorrect," said Rob Sluggett, Farmacist Director. "It is essential growers check their placement or get an adviser to assist".

## Six Key Methods to Canegrub Control!

### 1. Read the label

Product labels give critical instructions on use, placement, rate and product stewardship. It is essential to understand these instructions for your circumstances, for example, row spacing, planting configuration and hill-up height. Once you know the recommended use for your situation, you are set to determine your application.

### 2. Product placement

Correct placement is critical. You may need to change your setup based on your row spacing if you plant wide-shute or dual row. Check hill height in some established cane for granular product placement. You may be surprised where the granules are located once you have finished hilling up.

At the recent Project Bluewater farm demonstration days, wide shute planter assessed was spreading suSCon maxi Intel® granules too wide for effective grub control. Growers are urged to follow the label instructions to get product placement right. Granular concentration is reduced when it is placed too wide, reducing product effectiveness.

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Figure 1- Checking granule placement in mature cane



Figure 2- suSCon maxi granules are often spread too wide in wide-shute planters.



Figure 3- Treated plant cane stool tipped due to incorrect imidacloprid placement.



### 3. Depth

Liquid products need to be placed at the correct depth to be effective. They must be placed at a depth of 100mm to 150mm. Depth guides are available from Farmacist.



Figure 4- Measuring liquid placement depth is essential.

### 4. Close the slot

Closure of the application slot ensures the product stays where it is meant to be. Imidacloprid breaks down in sunlight and exposed slots or insufficient soil cover increases the risk of runoff losses into local streams. Closure of the slot can be done effectively using equipment such as press wheels or StoolZippas. Ensure press wheels and StoolZippas are set correctly to close the slot and not to bring liquid product up to the surface.



Figure 5- Poor closure of a slot where Imidacloprid has been applied



Figure 6- Heavy press wheels on a stool splitter applicator.



Figure 7-StoolZippas on a stool splitter applicator.

### 5. Training

Keep up to date with best use practices by attending demonstrations and training opportunities. Farmacist and the Project Bluewater team will be organising additional demonstration days around the district. Keep an eye out for dates and locations advertised in the newsletter and through our social media, website and direct emails.

### 6. Stewardship

Imidacloprid is toxic to many aquatic species and unfortunately it has been found regularly in local waterways. Take care with all product use, calibration, cleaning, and drum disposal. Priming or flushing equipment onto bare ground is poor practice and contributes to a poor industry image and potential increased water quality issues.

**The Project Bluewater team are here to assist you and your neighbours with setting-up your application equipment. Contact us!**