

# PSD adds warning label to all triazole products

THE Pesticides Safety Directorate is to add a warning to the labels of all products that contain a triazole after trials this season indicated that many azole fungicides will not give adequate control of septoria when used alone.

PSD commissioned the trials, which compared the performance of all currently available azole active substances with claim for control of septoria leaf blotch, following reports of serious control failures in 2005.

The wording of the warning as yet to be finalised but PSD says that it is expected to say that there is resistance to azoles that may seriously affect the performance of some products and that farmers should adopt the latest

By Teresa Rush

resistance management strategies advised by the UK Fungicides Resistance Action Group (FRAG).

Consideration was given to the amendment of existing label claims but, while the trials have indicated that many straight azole products no longer justify a label claim to control septoria, the range of results made it impossible to determine which products should have the claim deleted and which might still warrant a reduced claim for control.

PSD is advising farmers and advisers that local reductions in product efficacy may occur. Work jointly funded by PSD and some of the agrochemical companies has shown that the proportion of resistant septoria increases in individual

fields following the use of triazoles.

ADAS plant pathologist Bill Clark, who led the PSD trials project, points out that the results indicate that triazoles have not all been affected to the same degree by resistance development in septoria.

"This offers potential opportunities to mix azoles in an anti-resistance strategy – something that seemed totally irrational until recently," he said.

The performance of many triazoles against septoria has been compromised to a level where adequate disease control cannot be achieved, even at maximum label doses. Only with the use of an effective mixture partner such as chlorothalonil can septoria be adequately controlled in a high disease pressure situation, said Mr Clark.



Triazole fungicide product labels are to carry a warning about resistance to septoria and its effect on fungicide efficacy.

## Potato harvest is behind last year

PROGRESS with potato lifting is five to six days behind in comparison with last season, according to the British Potato Council.

Latest figures show that 28,200 hectares (22.1 per cent) had been harvested by September 15 compared with 36,900 ha (29.3 per cent) to the nearest week ending date last year.

The later harvesting reports are consistent with this year's late plantings, says Denis Alder, PC.

Scab, secondary growth and mis-shapes are the main quality effects this season. The degree of wet rots in the crop is also on the increase, which could lead to storage problems later this season. Maris Piper and Victoria are the main varieties affected.

The development of blight is becoming more widespread and now starting to show up in tubers. There is a growing confidence that yields are not as low as predicted a few weeks ago, adds Mr Alder.

## Improved tolerance to frost

A NATURAL plant 'antifreeze' took the Technical Excellence Award at the Four Oaks Show horticultural trade show in Cheshire.



Matthew Appleby (left) deputy editor of *Horticulture Week*, presents the Technical Excellence Award to Aydin Tanseli of Cropaid, at the Four Oaks Show.

Cropaid Natural Plant Antifreeze is said to improve susceptible plants' resistance to cold and frost.

Speaking at the award presentation Cropaid director Aydin Tanseli said: "ADAS trials have demonstrated that Cropaid NPA has potential to decrease the risk of economic loss through frost damage by decreasing damage to flowers and foliage when frost occurs."

Trials conducted on potato and strawberry plants showed that those treated with the plant antifreeze had improved cold tolerance and increased vigour.

Cropaid NPA is based on thiobacillus bacteria and 50 types of minerals.

According to Dr Jeremy Wiltshire of ADAS, who evaluated the product on potato trials in East Anglia, there was more rapid growth of sprouts after planting five weeks earlier than normal for the site in cold soil.

There was also an increased vigour score at six weeks after emergence.

## correctly targeted

do more to target competitive weeds of cultural and weeds.

David Ellerton of up ProCam, who is concerned over

necessary and use seed rates to utilise crop competition. At all costs, avoid resistant weeds going to seed."

Furthermore, product efficacy should be maximised through ensuring the right products are applied in the correct doses in the correct conditions at the correct



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