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**Poppies:
A Proud Tasmanian Industry**

inside:	Page
Welcome	1
Systemic Downy Mildew	1
Sun Pharma	1
Extractas BioScience	2
Message from PACB	2
Syngenta—Orondis Flexi ad	3
Advertisers	
• Agnova	4
• Prime Super	

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Welcome to the September 2022 (Spring) Edition of In A Capsule News!

Systemic Downy Mildew (SDM)

System Downy Mildew hit with vengeance in December 2014. The industry together with TIA and the State Government commenced a research project in 2015/2016 and found the problem was far greater than initially envisaged.

Emanating from this initial project the industry, TIA and State Government were successful with their application for an ARC Linkage Research Project. This \$1.2M, 5-year research project commenced in 2017 with completion earlier this year.

We are very proud that industry, government and TIA/UTas all worked collaboratively on this major research project.

We have already seen new crop management systems and crop protection programs implemented as a direct result of this important research.

We had hoped to include in this edition an overview of the final project report but due to some technical delays we are unable to do so, however we are assured the report will be completed in the very near future. PGT will provide growers with the overview as soon as it becomes available.

In the meantime given the nature of the season, we thought it prudent to reprint an article which PGT first published in the November 2020 edition of In a Capsule.

The Downy Mildew's including Systemic Downy Mildew will soon be upon us.

We have included important advice notes from Extractas and Sun Pharma.

It is important to remind growers any application of product to your poppy crop should in the first instance be discussed with your company Field Officer.

Sun Pharma

Label Application Rates for Oomycete fungicides – Orondis Flexi and Zorvec Enicade

This season's wet spring conditions and the gradual warming of daytime temperatures have created optimal conditions for the growth and reproduction of systemic downy mildew (SDM) spores.

Two fungicides are currently available on the market that contain an active ingredient (Oxathiapiprolin; OXTP) which has been proven to provide excellent control of downy mildews (such as SDM) via a unique mode of action targeting specific proteins within reproducing spores. These fungicides exhibit translaminar efficiency on plant leaves and provide protection for poppies during leaf expansion and canopy development.

At first signs of SDM leaf symptoms, or preferably via preventative application before the appearance of disease symptoms, growers are advised to consult

the relevant labels for each agrochemical, follow the directions of use and adhere to maximum application rates for each fungicide:

Orondis® Flexi (Syngenta) – Application rate for poppies of 800-1000mL/Ha with a 6 week withholding period; **DO NOT apply more than 2 applications per crop.**

Zorvec® Enicade ® (Corteva Agriscience) – Application rate for poppies of 350mL/Ha (plus a registered Downy mildew protectant fungicide at registered rates) with a 6 week withholding period; **DO NOT apply later than hook stage. DO NOT apply more than 1 application per crop.**

The compliance of poppy growers with respect to application of OXTP containing fungicides will safeguard this valuable chemistry for future use in poppies and mitigate the risk of resistance build-up to SDM and various other diseases in poppies and vegetable crops.

Extractas BioScience

Fungicide time of year again!

After such a wet start to the poppy growing season, fungal occurrence has been as widespread as expected.

Downey Mildew was prevalent in many northern crops recently but appeared to be mainly weather controlled and was relatively short lived.

There has been a slight increase in the level of Systemic Downey Mildew in some crops, however application of product as per our recommended fungicide strategy has generally provided good control.

It is an ideal time to re visit this program in relation to your own crop, discuss with your Field Officer, and ensure you have product on hand or available from your supplier to enable efficient spraying to protect your crop.

Phos Acid

As per your growers contract, it is a requirement that Extractas Crops **NOT be sprayed with Phos Acid.**

Growers will receive a payment (not an advance) of \$100 per ha, to cover the cost of **NOT** using this fungicide.

As seed is sold to a market with a detectable limit of zero Phosphonic acid, it is imperative that no crops grown for Extractas receive treatment with this product.

Testing will be conducted to ensure we meet this requirement, of what is a very important market for this crop product .

Message from the Poppy Advisory & Control Board

“Licensing to Grow Poppies

Prior to sowing, a grower is required to hold a current Licence to Grow Alkaloid Poppies, a valid contract with a licensed processor and an approved Notice to Grow or the current season. A grower should ensure that all approvals are in place prior to sowing and not rely solely on their company field officer for this. If in doubt, growers can contact the Regulated Crops Branch of DPIPW on 03 6165 4876 to confirm whether sowing can occur.

The seriousness of carrying out unlicensed activities, and the risk it poses to the reputation of the Tasmanian poppy industry, cannot be stressed enough.

Crops sown without approvals in place can result in a fine being imposed on the grower as well as immediate destruction of the crop. In addition, the matter may be forwarded to Tasmania Police Drug Investigation Services for further investigation and possible prosecution.”



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In Conclusion

We wish all growers the best for the coming 2022/23 season.

Kind regards,

Michael Nichols

Michael Nichols

President



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