

TECHNOTE

NO BLOOMIN' ISSUES WITH DU-WETT SUPERSPREADER

Blueberry growers have known for a long time that some crop protection products can "strip" the bloom from blueberries.

Growers are very wary of oil use or products containing oils. It is for this reason that unless crop safety is demonstrated, growers are hesitant to use new products.

Until recently, Du-Wett® superspreader has been one of those untested products. However, season long trials conducted in northern NSW, have shown that Du-Wett does not have an impact on bloom.

KEY POINTS

- Du-Wett is an organosilicone-based super spreader
- Must be used with concentrated water volumes
- Developed specifically for horticulture
- Ensures superior coverage of hard-to-wet surfaces
- Does not impact bloom in blueberries

THE BETTER WETTER

Blueberry flowers are notoriously hard to wet. With flowers being the entry point for key diseases such as grey mould (botrytis) excellent coverage is required for protection. Du-Wett will provide this.

WHY USE A CONCENTRATE WATER RATE PLUS DU-WETT?

Less water per hectare means less tanks are required to get across your property - you will have a faster response time when pest and disease pressure is high and when serious weather events are imminent. Also, less filling up means less trips back to the fill point, which means time, labour and operational cost savings!



Figure 1: blueberry bloom after a season-long trial using Du-Wett at concentrate water rates.

For more information on Du-Wett, visit nufarm.com.au



PUTTING DU-WETT TO THE TEST

Multiple trials across Australia have shown excellent crop safety when Du-Wett is applied in combination with a registered fungicide to blueberries.

Du-Wett concentrate spray with fungicides had no effect on bloom, compared to dilute spray with a standard non-ionic surfactant. Disease control was uncompromised.

NORTHERN NSW TRIAL SUMMARY

- 6 spray fungicide program, May 2017, 10-14 day spray intervals
- Dilute applications 600L/ha water volume with a non-ionic adjuvant added to the fungicides at label rate
- Concentrate water rate used was 300L/ha (2X concentration factor) using the same fungicides plus an experimental fungicide
- Du-Wett was used at 200ml/ha



Figure 2: season long crop protection program using dilute water volume plus non-ionic surfactant.



Figure 3: season long crop protection program using concentrated water volume plus Du-Wett.

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