

Intake Combi[®] In-furrow with Liquid Fertilis-

In-furrow Fungicides

In-furrow fungicides are traditionally coated on granular fertilisers and banded or drilled with the seed. Fungicide coatings add to the cost of the fertiliser (about \$20 per tonne) and are somewhat inflexible.

In recent years, there has been considerable interest in banding liquid fertilisers using modified seeder systems. This can increase the efficiency of nitrogen and phosphorus supply, and also allows the addition of in-furrow fungicides and trace elements. Compared with the application of Intake Combi[®] on granular fertiliser, banding Intake Combi[®] with liquid fertilisers should provide a more uniform distribution in-furrow and better plant uptake.

Over the past two years, CSBP, Elders, Landmark and Crop Care have been working with growers to explore the application of Intake Combi[®] mixed with liquid fertilisers in-furrow. Not only does this application method reduce costs, it allows the grower to vary fungicide and fertiliser rates according to the needs of an individual paddock at the time of sowing.

What is Intake Combi[®] ?

Intake Combi[®] is a broad spectrum fungicide manufactured by Crop Care that can be coated on granulated fertilisers or mixed with liquid fertilisers and applied in-furrow. Intake Combi[®] in-furrow provides up to 18 weeks' protection against stripe rust, Septoria and Take-all in wheat; powdery mildew and scald in barley; and blackleg in canola.

Compatibility

Intake Combi[®] is water soluble and mixes readily with Flexi-N, Flexi-NS and Liqui-NS with good tank agitation. Experience with other liquid fertilisers is limited.

Some precipitation and build-up of residues can occur when trace elements are added with Intake Combi[®] and liquid fertilisers, especially if tank agitation is poor, the distribution hoses to each tine are long, and temperatures are low. A simple jar test will indicate if problems are likely.

Pre-mix the trace elements in water, starting with the least soluble component, before adding the fertiliser and then add the Intake Combi[®] last (i.e. zinc then copper, then fertiliser, and then Intake Combi[®]).

Some machinery manufacturers have developed a system of injecting the fungicide into the distribution hose as the liquid fertiliser leaves the tank. This eliminates the need to pre-mix in water in the tank and minimises the fungicide exposure to the operator.

Check filters, orifice plates and nozzles for blockages regularly during application, and rinse the whole system thoroughly with water every 24 hours or less.

Effectiveness in Liquids

Intake Combi[®] in-furrow with Flexi-N has been evaluated in field trials at one site in 2002 and nine sites in 2003. Disease pressures were very low in 2003 across the State; however, there was a significant response to fungicide application at all three sites.

The data at hand suggests the application of Intake Combi[®] mixed with liquid fertilisers is equally as effective as coating Intake Combi[®] on granular fertilisers.

Further Information

For more information on disease management, consult your Landmark Agronomist, Independent Sales Agent or Crop Care Technical Sales Representative. Nutritional advice is available from your CSBP Area Manager, or Landmark Agronomist.

Please Note: CSBP does not sell any fungicide but does coat solid fertilisers with Intake Combi[®] as a service to customers.

