Canopy shows value with new herbicides & cotton varieties

The value of the Caltex Precision Spray Oil, Canopy® in combination with other spray treatments has been further demonstrated in a series of field trials at Wee Waa NSW and Nangwee Qld.

In trials conducted by Agrisearch during the 2007/2007 season, Canopy was successfully used with Roundup Ready herbicide with no detriment to either product and no phytotoxicity on Roundup Ready Flex cotton varieties, Sicala 60BRF and Sicot 80BRF.

The trials confirmed the usefulness of Canopy for early season pest control of major sucking pests such as green mirids. The same trials also confirmed anecdotal experience of Canopy's effect as an ovipositional deterrent to reduce *Helicoverpa* egg numbers.

Caltex Precision Spray Oils Manager, Dr David Johnson said the replicated trials found Canopy reduced *Helicoverpa* egg numbers by approximately half in moderate to heavy insect pressure.

"This underscores the role of Canopy in foliar cotton sprays as a cost-effective way to suppress the major sucking and chewing insects in cotton as part of an integrated pest management program."

Dr Johnson said the trials were part of an ongoing series of experiments to further explore the compatibility of Canopy with a range of insecticides, herbicides and foliar fertilizers in cotton and other crops.

Canopy is a true IPM product, providing significant pest control - both used alone and in partner IPM products without harming beneficial populations.

"Obviously, the compatibility of Canopy with various other sprays throughout the growing season makes for more cost effective pest control by minimizing the number of sprays and application costs.

"While Canopy's activity against active mirids and aphids is well known, the significant reduction in *Helicoverpa* egg laying activity has highlighted its ability to reduce subsequent *Heliothis* crop damage and spray costs," Dr Johnson said.

Ovipositional deterrence was considered to have been demonstrated if Canopy-treated plots had lower egg densities than equivalent plots that had not been treated with Canopy. In three of the four experiments, significant reductions in egg counts were recorded after Canopy application.

Egg pressures in these experiments ranged from 2.26 to a high of 15.67 eggs per metre in untreated plots. This reduced to just 0.83 up to 9.32 eggs/m where Canopy had been applied – resulting in a 48.3% average reduction in egg density.

In the fourth experiment, egg pressure averaged only 1.8 eggs/m and no significant differences were detected in the first egg count after spraying, however, samples taken 3 – 4 days after spraying showed similar treatment relativities as the other three experiments.

Analysis of similar field trials in the Darling Downs are continuing and will be followed up with more trials of Canopy in combination with partner products in the 2007/2008 season.

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More information: Dr David Johnson 0401 140 536 or www.precisionsprayoils.com.au