

Tobacco Research Board

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Please address all correspondence to the General Manager

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To All Tobacco Growers

Dear Grower

LEAFMINER AND APHID CONTROL IN SEEDBEDS AND LANDS

The Tobacco Research Board has received inquiries on the control of leafminer and aphids in tobacco conventional seedbeds and floatbeds. The standard method as per the Handbook of Recommendations, Section I is to apply acephate at the rate of 135 g/100 litres of water in a coarse spray at 200 ml/m² for leafminer seedbed control. As has been already communicated to growers, acephate is on the EU banned chemicals list and will, therefore, no longer be approved for use on tobacco according to the Pesticide Approval Service Scheme(PASS). In the lands, leafminer control can be achieved by sprays 2-4weeks after planting with acephate at a rate of 90 g/100 litres in a volume of 500ml/ha as a 30-cm swath directly over the plants. The main objective of this spray is to protect the plants when they are most susceptible to damaging attack since by the time an infestation is realised, most of the serious damage has already been done. When tobacco plants are small or growing slowly, the leafminer move rapidly up the plant and attack the heart causing stunting or death of the plant. Also removal and destruction of infested leaves and sources of infestation must be done to eliminate further re-infestations.

On conventional seedbeds, dimethoate, thiamethoxam and thiacloprid are registered for aphid control whilst imidacloprid, acetamiprid and thiamethoxam are registered for use on floatbeds.

The current recommendations for aphicides are given in the tables below.

Conventional seedbeds

| Chemical | Rate/100 litres water | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | Drench | Spray |
| Dimethoate | 190 ml(1 litre mix/m ²) | 380 ml(500ml/m ²) |
| Thiamethoxam 25wg | 27 g (1.5 litres mix/m ²) | - |
| Thiacloprid | - | 60 ml (500 ml/m ²) |

Float seedbeds

Acetamiprid applied at 5 g/100 litre water in a 2 litre drench per tray

| Chemical | Rate of application |
|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Thiamethoxam 25wg | 4 g/100 litre pond water |
| Imidacloprid 20% sl | 5 ml/100 litre pond water |

Work is currently being conducted at Kutsaga to test newer active ingredients for aphid control in-order to offer growers a wide range of pesticides to use and also to curb the ever present threat of insecticide resistance.

Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the Tobacco Research Board's Plant Health Services Division (formerly Crop Protection Division) on telephone 575289-94 or toll free 0 800 4511 and email: sdimbi@kutsaga.co.zw.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Susan Dimbi
Head of Plant Health Services