



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,

RE: STALK DESTRUCTION AND MANAGING APHIDS AND VIRAL DISEASES

The 2015-16 tobacco season was characterized by a late onset of the rains and prolonged dry spells. This resulted in slow plant growth rates and thus most crops ended up overstaying in the fields. It is, therefore, possible that some growers may find themselves with tobacco in the lands **past the legislated MAY 15 stalk destruction deadline** and will be applying for extension periods from Plant Quarantine Services. This means that an adequately long dead period to ensure a break in the life cycle of the tobacco aphid (**before the legislated sowing date of 1 June**) may not be possible in some tobacco growing areas. These tobacco plants that will stay in the field past the stalk destruction date will no doubt serve as reservoirs for the tobacco aphid and the diseases they transmit, thus exposing crops in the new season to infestation and virus disease infection.

To minimize infection and proliferation of aphids and virus disease in the new season growers are, therefore, advised to be proactive and take the following precautions;

1. Seedbeds

Growers must ensure the seedlings are protected as early as possible from the time of germination. This can be done by using aphicide treated seed or by using preventative insecticides such as Thiamethoxam at sowing. Thiamethoxam will give protection up to eight weeks after sowing. Thereafter, insecticides such as Thiocloprid and Dimethoate can be used for the follow up sprays. Growers must ensure regular scouting of seedlings and spraying as necessary and must rotate chemicals to prevent development of resistance.

Insecticide	Rate / 100 Litres Water	Notes
Thiamethoxam 25 WG	27 g	Drench at a rate of 1,5 litre mix/m ²
Dimethoate 40 EC	190 ml	Drench at a rate of 1 litre mix/m ²
	380 ml	Spray at a rate of 500 ml mix/m ²
Thiacloprid 48 SC	60 ml	Spray at a rate of 500 ml mix/m ²

2. Floatbeds

In addition to using aphicide treated seed, an application of the systemic aphicides, Imidacloprid and Thiamethoxam in floatwater at 5-6 weeks after germination will protect seedlings for 8-9 weeks. Acetamiprid can also be applied as a drench.

Insecticide	Rate of application	Target amount/72 trays (Equivalent to 1 ha)
Imidacloprid 200 SL	5 ml/100 L pond water	85 ml/1700 L pond water
Thiamethoxam 25 WG	4 g/100 L pond water	68 g/1 700 L water
Acetamiprid 20 SP	5 g/100 L @ 2 L mix/tray drench	7.2 g/144 L water/72 trays

3. At planting

It is extremely important to plant with preventative aphicides to ensure transplants are protected against aphids. The following insecticides when applied at planting will give protection for 6 – 8 weeks after planting.

Insecticide	Application Rate/ 100 Litres Water
Thiamethoxam 25 WG	125 g
Thiamethoxam + Abamectin	556 ml
Imidacloprid 200 SL	220 ml
Imidacloprid 350 SC	127 ml
Imidacloprid 70 WG	63 g
Imidacloprid + Lambdacyhalothrin	220 ml
Acetamiprid + Abamectin	166 ml

Insecticide application is done by adding 1 x "30" fertilizer cup of mix per planting station. Thiamethoxam and Imidacloprid can be added to the bulk planting water, which should cut down on labour costs. Thereafter, **scouting must be done regularly** to ensure that subsequent sprays are done timely. The following insecticides must be applied as soon as aphids are cited on plants.

Insecticide	Application Rate/ 100 Litres Water
Acetamiprid 20 SP	15 g
Thiacloprid 48 SC	60 ml
Thiacloprid + Flubendiamide	40 ml
Acetamiprid + Lambdacyhalothrin	15 ml
Acetamiprid + Emmamectine benzoate	166 ml
Dimethoate 40 EC	375 ml

However, growers are advised that timely stalk destruction remains one of the most effective and inexpensive ways of managing this problem. **It is, therefore, important that stalks are destroyed as soon after the reaping process as possible.**

If you have any queries regarding the above please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned or Plant Health Service Division at Kutsaga Research Station on 575289-94 or toll free 0 800 4511.

Yours sincerely,



Rhoda Mavuka
Entomologist