



Order early and reduce stress

THE current rust outbreak has resulted in a lot of stress in the wheatbelt as farmers check their crops for the rust hot spots and then try and obtain adequate supplies of fungicides to treat the crops before the damage becomes too severe.

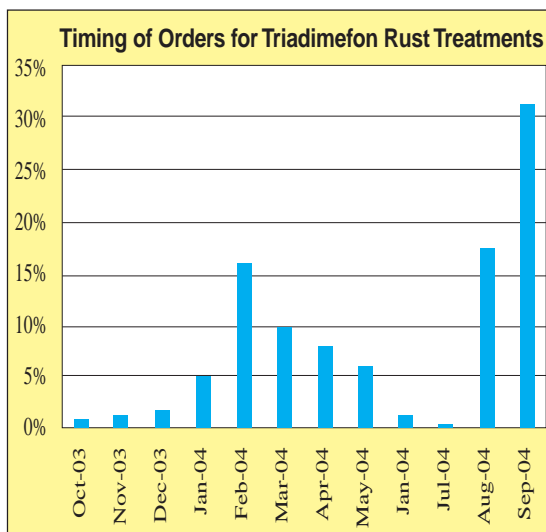
It may be no consolation, but the stress levels have also risen at 4Farmers and their agents as they respond to the needs of their clients and seek supplies to meet the demand.

Fortunately because 4Farmers has direct links with overseas suppliers, it was able to respond to late demand and accept and supply in reasonable time, more than 95% of these orders. However, supplying in this fashion is at much greater cost (eg

airfreight premiums) and with greater uncertainty of delivery time.

The accompanying graph shows the timing of orders placed with 4Farmers for the supply of Triadimefon - measured in terms of active ingredient. Less than 40% was ordered between January and April for in-furrow treatments, and more than 50% was ordered as a foliar treatment - virtually no orders in July followed by overwhelming demand in August and September.

Early orders, including those for fertiliser treatments, can reduce the stress levels all round, as well as keeping costs to a minimum.



Maximise effectiveness and minimise cost

FARMERS have long since recognised the effectiveness of pre-emergent herbicides. Fungicides are no different, as an in-furrow dressing carries the same advantages - early protection and peace of mind. But as with weeds, if no action is taken until the problem appears, it means that some damage has occurred

Early fertiliser orders

MANY farmers are taking advantage of the incentives being offered for the early delivery of fertiliser, with the added advantage that worrying about fertiliser cartage will not intrude into the busy pre-seeding period.

But to make the most of this piece of early planning, it will pay to apply the 4Furrow treatment to the fertiliser as it is placed in the shed, removing another pre-seeding job as well as providing some peace of mind that protection from fungal problems will last until 14 - 16 weeks after seeding. Ordering your 4Furrow now will also ensure that it arrives in time, so talk to your 4Farmers agent soon.

Technical information can be obtained from 4Farmers agents or from Terry Piper, Chief Agronomist, 4Farmers, Welshpool. Phone 9356 3445.

before a spray can be applied.

So to maximise the effectiveness of a foliar spray, it needs to be applied pre-emptively - before obvious signs of rust appear. But if a pre-emptive strike is going to be made at rust, foliar spraying is a more costly and less effective method than in-furrow treatment.

Be kind to your sheep

AS the season draws to a close, the sheep should not be forgotten, especially for farmers who shear in spring and need an effective treatment for external parasites.

4Farmers Triflumuron, the gentle lousicides, is an Insect Growth Regulator (IGR) that prevents immature lice from developing further, including those that hatch within 20 days of application. It can be applied up to seven days after shearing or to unshorn lambs up to two months old.

4Farmers Abamectin is an effective treatment for internal parasite infection due to gastrointestinal roundworms and lungworms in sheep, including benzimidazole and levamisole resistant strains.

Be kind to your sheep and talk to your 4Farmers agent about treating external and internal parasites.

Experience over the past few years, especially with the discovery of Stripe rust in WA, has shown that the possibility of a fungal infestation is very high.

So if you consider that rust is a pest to plan for, rather than a problem to react to, then 4Furrow is the most cost effective method.

4Furrow, a D.I.Y. Job

SOME farmers have been taking advantage of having the in-furrow fungicide applied at the fertiliser works, a simple and convenient option, but a very expensive one with some quoting as much as \$30/t for application only.

Many 4Furrow users are applying their product in a more cost effective manner and even if a Granni pot and dedicated auger were to be purchased for the job, it wouldn't take long to pay for it.

Talk to your 4Farmers agent about some of the methods used to make this a D.I.Y. job.

Clean up pastures

AS northern farmers prepare for harvest, many further south still have time to clean up their pastures by spray topping before seed set, an exercise that can improve the quality of the dry feed, reduce the seed problem for the stock and make weed control more effective in subsequent crops.

Talk to your 4Farmers agent about some cost effective spray options.

IT PAYS TO REMEMBER

Before 4Farmers Cypermethrin went on the market for \$450, other suppliers charged \$810 for the same amount.

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