Potato Progress

Research and Extension for Washington's Potato Industry

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Acramite-4L SC Crisis Exemption for Spider Mite Control in Potatoes

Recent annual problems with mites in potatoes, and concern about them being even worse this year, led the WSPC to seek a Section 18 registration of a second viable potato miticide. The WSPC has been investing in research on miticides for several years, and has actively sought registrations of new miticides. Acramite was chosen for this year's Section 18 because it was the only product that is far enough along the registration process to be a viable Section 18 candidate.

Acramite provides rapid knockdown of motile two-spotted spider mites with excellent residual control of newly hatched nymphs. Optimum activity requires careful attention to timing and conditions of application. For best results, follow the recommendations provided below **(from Crompton/Uniroyal)**.

Acramite is an effective and reliable miticide for two-spotted spider mite control in potatoes. Best results with any miticide depend on timely identification of infestations, early treatment, and thorough coverage. Treatments that are delayed until mites have become well established in the field will take longer and may not provide satisfactory control. Scout fields regularly and initiate treatments immediately once mite populations begin to build.

The best tool for finding mites early is a 10X to 16X hand lens. Proper technique for easiest viewing is to put the lens to your eye and bring the subject matter, such as a leaf, to the lens. Early mite populations are most likely to be found by scouting for the nymphs and adults rather than looking for the damage they cause. Start looking for mites on leaves, especially near the midrib, from dry, dusty areas and perimeters of fields. Check leaves from both the exterior and interior of the potato canopy.

Once sampled leaves consistently have mites, it's time to treat. Acramite can be applied by air. However, good coverage is critical with Acramite. Do not apply in less than 10 gallons per acre by air.

Acramite is a contact miticide – spider mites must come in contact with the spray deposit on the surface of the plant in order to be controlled. The addition of the low labeled rate of a silicone surfactant can help break webbing and improve coverage.

Acramite is most stable at neutral to acid pH. Alkaline water sources or tank mixes should be lowered to pH 6 to 7 with a quality buffer.

Application

Timing: Apply Acramite-4L SC to low mite populations for best control.

- One application per season
- Apply to building mite populations before they reach damaging levels
- Does not need to be absorbed into young leaf tissue
- Does not need to be applied before mites appear

Method: Apply Acramite-4L SC by aerial application.

- Apply at 1.5 pints per acre
- Good coverage is important for best results
- Apply in no less than 10 gallons spray volume per acre
- Add low label rate of a silicone surfactant to the spray mix
- Maintain tank mix pH of 6 to 6.5

Precaution

The Section 18 Crisis Exemption label must be obtained from the State prior to use of Acramite-4L SC on potatoes.

A time limited tolerance has not been established by the USEPA at this time for potatoes. Potatoes cannot be distributed for consumption until the tolerance has been established. EPA expects and plans to issue a tolerance in approximately 60 days, but until then potatoes treated with Acramite may not enter commercial channels. This process is a standard procedure and is the same for all other crisis exemptions that have been issued. EPA has always issued a tolerance for every crisis exemption since 1997, and there is no reason to believe that one will not be issued in this case. Additionally, based on residue research conducted for registration for this use pattern on potatoes, application of Acramite according to the label does not result in any detectable residues. Users should know, however, that in the unlikely event that EPA does not issue a tolerance, potatoes containing Acramite residues will not be saleable.

Efficacy

Based on ground and aerial based efficacy trials in the northern and southern Columbia Basin, Acramite has provided a level of control that equals Comite.

Information

For more information on Acramite on potatoes, you may contact private agricultural researcher Alan Schreiber at 509 266 4348, or the Uniroyal Chemical Technical Sales Representative, Scott Rennie at 509 884 6712.