CANE SETT TREATMENT
With Shirtan® 120

Shirtan® 120 is a fungicide for the control of pineapple disease in sugar cane setts. Unless the cut surfaces of the cane setts are covered adequately with fungicide, pineapple disease fungus can enter the sett and cause rotting and poor germination.

Shirtan 120

Shirtan 120 has been used in plant cane for over 40 years. It is still just as effective as when originally released. One of the reasons for the success of Shirtan is the stimulatory effect which it seems to give, providing more rapid germination and emergence of shoots. This is in addition to the fungicidal effect.

Some concern has been expressed about the fact that Shirtan contains mercury. It is worthwhile outlining a few facts on this issue. Firstly, the form of mercury in Shirtan is MEMC (Methoxyethylmercuric chloride). After application MEMC is decomposed to inorganic mercury which in turn is bound to soil particles around the original planting. The retained mercury does not leach into rain or irrigation water.

Secondly, mercury is a natural occurring element in the environment - rocks, soil, water, sediments and atmosphere. Naturally occurring levels in Queensland soils have been measured with wide variations occurring. The results of a study by the BSES shows that while levels within cane paddocks after the use of Shirtan generally show an increase, they were still within the range of naturally occurring levels in untreated soil. Further, the use of mercury in cane planting did not increase mercury levels in river water or sediments above that found upstream of cultivated soil in the catchment area.

Monitoring will continue in Queensland cane growing areas as a commitment to the industry and the environment.

Uses

Generally, non-mercurial cane sett fungicides only remain active in the soil for up to three weeks. In some areas in and south of Bundaberg it may be worthwhile noting that when planting occurs whilst soil temperature is relatively low it may take longer than three weeks for the shoot to germinate and emerge. Shirtan is the preferred product because of the ten week protection period and the possible growth stimulation effect.

Shirtan 120 is formulated with a Red dye so that coverage on the setts can be easily checked. Once the solution changes to black during its application it is a visual indicator that the solution is no longer effective.

Rates and Application

For use in dip planters ensure thorough wetting of the cut ends of the setts. For dipping small quantities of setts, use wire mesh baskets and dip for approximately 30 seconds. Whilst dipping move the setts about in the solution to ensure thorough wetting. When using dip or return spray planters the solution should be discarded if it changes colour to black or becomes heavily contaminated with soil or trash.

Shirtan 120 is a registered trademark of Nufarm Technologies USA Pty Ltd.

This publication is a guide only and not substitute for professional or expert advice. The product label should be consulted before use of any of the products referred to in this publication. Crop Care Australasia Pty Ltd shall not be liable for any results, loss or damage whatsoever, whether consequential or otherwise through the use or application of products and / or materials referred to herein. Before using, always read the product label.

Contact your local Crop Care distributor for further information:
Customer Service Australia Wide: 1800 111 454 II Fax: 07 3909 2040 II www.cropcare.com.au