

(Continued from Page A36)  
with 38-inch centers that align with the plant rows, Fleming replaced the flat spray pattern nozzles with nozzels that create a hollow cone pattern.

Between the top sprayers set on 38-inch centers, they added

15-inch drop arms (which made the sprayer have 19-inch centers).

Except for the end drop arms, each drop arm was fitted with a two-head "T" with cone nozzels.

The drop arms travel between the plants and spray into the sides of the plant.

The cone shape of the spray pro-

vides two edges from top to bottom to dispense the liquid.

The plant gets hit with the first edge of the cone as the sprayer travels down the rows, and again with the back edge of the cone as it passes by the plant.

Adquate pressure is needed to ensure a proper spray mist to form, and Flemming, who demonstrated

the boom sprayer and discussed sprayer considerations, said that with the high pressures required, that a high percentage of the sprayer pump's power rating can be used up in achieving the proper spray and rate of flow.

Since both are wettable powders, they need to have constant agitation in the tank.

He said that, considering the slow rate of travel in the field with the sprayer in order to achieve adequate coverage of the plant, as well as the reduction in turbulence in the tank caused by the high pressure load on the pump, that farmers should consider stopping occasionally to allow proper agitation.

The advice to spray once per week was a general recommendation because, if the weather returns

to the 90s and is hot and dry, the mold may become somewhat dormant. That could perhaps extend the interval between spraying by up to 10 days or possibly two weeks.

However, weather is the determining factor.

Both Acrobat MZ and Dithane DF have to be reapplied after a heavy rain. They will wash off, though it has to be a hard rain.

Acrobat MZ will stay longer if allowed to dry properly. If also allowed to dry first, Dithane DF will also not wash off immediately.

In making a decision to spray before a rain of afterward, it was recommended that spraying should precede the rain, because the storm that brings the rain brings the mold spores.

Acrobat MZ requires a drying time of three hours before rain in order to stick to the plant. If rain is forecast for the evening, and there is apparently time to apply it before it starts, Fleming said to go ahead.

As a caveat however, he did recommend waiting until the spraying conditions were appropriate — low wind, plant dried off from morning dew, etc.

The officials answered specific questions from some members of the group.

One grower asked if aphid control insecticide could be mixed, in order to reduce the number of trips through the field.

With the emergency use of Acrobat MZ, it cannot be mixed with any other agent or chemical, other than water, Orthene or Thiadan. That includes fertilizers and adherents ("stickers").

Dithane DF can also be mixed with Orthene or Thiadan.

Furbane had been labeled for use and is still labeled, and is recommended in seed beds, but the Dithane DF and Acrobat MZ perform better in the fields.

The special use of Acrobat MZ is limited to a total of 10 pounds per acre. Further, Fleming said that stocks of Acrobat MZ may be limited, though he said he is not saying that to create a rush on purchasing it.

While half pound per acre applications of Acrobat MZ are suggested for young plants, 2.5 pounds per acre are recommended when the plant matures.

Since frequent applications of Acrobat MZ could possibly result in reaching the 10-pound per acre limit before the plant is topped, it was suggested that using both fungicides alternately may help in managing the disease while staying in compliance with restrictions.

The decision of when to use either should be made depending on weather conditions and how that relates to the mold and its active spore formation.

Acrobat MZ stops sporulation, while Dithane DF does not.

New leaves that appear on plants since the last spraying are not protected. They need to be sprayed.

There is also a 30-day harvest restriction on the fungicides.

However, Yocum said that, for reasons not yet understood, once the tobacco plant is topped, the blue mold ceases its damage and is no longer of concern, even though it's in the plant.

Farmers were also asked to destroy the plant beds as soon as transplanting has been finished. Plowing or discing was recommended. All plants in the bed have to be killed to stop the blue mold.

(Since blue mold does not overwinter, seed and plant beds with blue mold this year will not be contaminated next year and can be used without fear.)

If there is blue mold visible in the beds, it is giving off spores and can be a source for spreading the disease into fields. If sporulation conditions are present, Acrobat MZ can be used to stop the spore-producing activity.

The blue mold apparently is not confined to Lancaster County, and Lebanon County crops agent Delbert Voight said he had discovered it in some farmers' fields, but had not been aware that it was the resistant variety and that Ridomil would be ineffective.

For more information, contact a local Penn State Extension office or a certified consultant.

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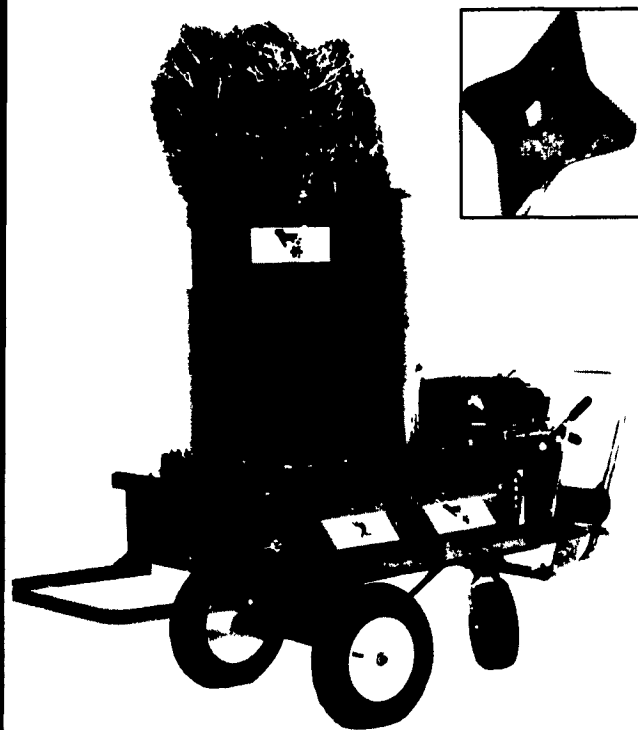
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