

Important Changes to the Status[®] Herbicide Label in Relation to High Use Rates on Canola

The use of clethodim at rates above 250 mL/ha has become widespread industry practice in the battle to achieve acceptable control of FOP and DIM-resistant Annual Ryegrass in winter crops.

In 2007, in response to industry requests to legitimize this use pattern, Sumitomo Chemical in consultation with APVMA increased its rate range for Status Herbicide in various crops to allow rates of up to 500 mL/ha to be used. Residue data supported the use pattern, and so the widespread practice of using higher rates could in effect be legalized. The rate increase applied to canola, pulse crops and pasture legumes.

During the course of last season Sumitomo received feedback from a number of sources about possible crop effects associated with using high rates of clethodim on canola; particularly at later application timings. **Observed symptoms include:**

- Delayed flowering
- Distorted flower buds
- Possible yield suppression

Sumitomo recognises that, prior to the increase in label rates, growers in many areas exceeded the 250 mL rate – simply because 250 mL/ha wasn't adequate to control resistant ryegrass, and that typically no crop effects were detected. However, with the new maximum rate of 500 mL/ha now registered, recent experience suggests that under certain conditions more severe damage symptoms may be observed.

Critical factors appear to be:

- The rate used
- Crop stage at application
- Moisture or temperature stress that may slow down metabolism
- Possible varietal differences in tolerance

After considerable consultation with agronomists and consultants, Sumitomo is recommending the immediate implementation of a number of new Directions for Use and Warning statements on the Status label for rates above 250 mL/ha to canola.



The revised Status Herbicide label for canola will appear as follows:

DIRECTIONS FOR USE

RESTRAINTS: DO NOT apply without the addition of an oil (see GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS).

DO NOT apply to plants that are stressed by moisture or temperature extremes.

DO NOT apply if rain is expected within one hour of application.

DO NOT apply more than once to any one crop.

CROP	CROP GROWTH STAGE	WEEDS CONTROLLED	RATE (mL/ha)	STAGE OF WEED GROWTH	STATE	CRITICAL COMMENTS
Canola	For rates over 250 mL/ha, DO NOT APPLY after the rosette stage (GS 29)	Annual ryegrass (<i>Lolium rigidum</i>), Annual phalaris (<i>Phalaris minor</i>)	150 to 500	2-leaf to fully tillered	Qld, NSW, ACT, Vic, Tas, SA, WA only	Always apply with a crop oil. See ADJUVANTS AND SPRAY ADDITIVES for specific instructions. The lower doses will provide effective control if applied under ideal conditions to weeds that are smaller, actively growing and free from temperature or water stress. See COMPATIBILITY AND CAUTIONS in GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS for mixture recommendations with insecticides, fungicides and other herbicides.
		Barley grass (<i>Hordeum leporinum</i>), Brome grass (<i>Bromus diandrus</i>), Wild oats (<i>Avena</i> spp.)	175 to 500			
	Volunteer wheat (<i>Triticum aestivum</i>), Volunteer oats (<i>Avena sativa</i>)	200 to 500 (175 to 500 in WA only)				
	Silver grass (<i>Vulpia bromoides</i>) – suppression only	250 to 500				
	For rates of less than 250 mL/ha, DO NOT APPLY after flower buds become visible (green buds)	Paradoxa grass (<i>Phalaris paradoxa</i>)	250 to 375	2- to 5-leaf stage	Qld, NSW, ACT only	Rates above 250 mL/ha may cause flower deformation resulting in lower yields if applied after the rosette stage (GS 29) or under stress conditions. Some varieties may be more susceptible than others.
			375 to 500	5-leaf to fully tillered		

All distributors of Status Herbicide are being made aware of this label change and requested to heed the new directions for use and warnings.

Please note that the symptoms of crop damage have not been reported in any other crop than canola.



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