



ESCOLTA 

Escolta

TECHNICAL UPDATE

2022



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Since 2016, Escolta has provided beet crop growers with broad-spectrum control of the key foliar diseases - rust, powdery mildew, cercospora leaf spot and ramularia leaf spot - increasing crop greening and yields.

IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENT

In the 2018/19 season, field observations revealed cercospora infections in a number of New Zealand locations and, in some instances, control was less than expected.

Infected leaf samples were sent to the Bayer experts in Germany for testing, and the results showed that the G143A mutation (which confers resistance to QoI Group 11 fungicides) was present in all samples. This impacts Escolta activity against cercospora as Escolta contains trifloxystrobin, a QoI fungicide.

Left image: Cercospora symptoms

Right image: Cercospora infection March 19, Canterbury



WHAT CONDITIONS FAVOUR CERCOSPORA LEAF SPOT?

To develop, cercospora infections require high humidity (>90%), prolonged leaf wetness, and warm temperatures (>16°C). With favourable conditions, particularly higher temperatures (around 25°C), cercospora can spread rapidly, affecting leaf quality and reducing leaf area and bulb yields. Dense canopies can create conditions ideal for disease development, especially with irrigation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Bayer recommends Escolta is applied at the first signs of disease infection. A second application may be made 3-4 weeks later if the threat continues.

This will maintain high-quality foliage by giving excellent control of rust, powdery mildew, and ramularia leaf spot, allowing your crops to deliver their full yield potential.

However, in areas where cercospora resistance is present, and in seasons favourable for disease development, Escolta may not adequately control cercospora. It's important to note that, at this stage, the resistance is limited to cercospora only and distribution of the resistance within New Zealand is not fully understood.

When using Escolta on beet crops, you can reduce the severity of disease by adopting sound agricultural and irrigation practices, and closely following use instructions.

WE'LL KEEP YOU INFORMED

Bayer will continue to test cercospora populations for sensitivity to QoI fungicides and share findings and insights into the application of Escolta in beet crops.

For more information on cercospora, please contact your Bayer Regional Business Manager or go to **hardtobeet.co.nz**

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