

Don't compromise weed control

Eliminating weed competition is critical to the strong establishment of newly planted orchards, despite limited herbicide options, broad spectrum, effective weed control can be achieved.

UAP agronomist Julian Searle, explains that; "Due to the amount of light able to reach the orchard floor in young crops, weeds can and will get away very strongly – making weed control particularly significant.

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"Adding to this problem, fruit growers now have only very limited access to effective herbicide options for

use on the crop.

"There aren't many alternatives that can offer both high levels of label approved crop safety and a broad spectrum of weed control – particularly in apple, pear and blackcurrant crops," he explains. "And for grape vines, there are even fewer – if any options," he adds.

However, with the use of Ronstar Liquid (oxadiazon) growers do still have a very effective weed control solution. "Ronstar has a broad spectrum of activity that can be relied on," says Julian. "So much so that it has become a standard treatment in some significant crops," he says.

"Ronstar Liquid has both contact and residual activity against a wide range of broadleaved and grass

weeds. It is also particularly effective on the problematic willow herb," notes Julian.

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"The beauty of Ronstar is that it sits on the soil surface so there is no possibility of any root uptake or damage," he says. Ronstar Liquid works by the germinating weeds taking up a lethal dose of the herbicide through their shoots as they push through the herbicide layer on the soil surface while contact action on already emerged weeds is dependent on the rate/ha used.

"And its simplicity is another key strength," explains Julian. "Ronstar controls more weeds than other herbicides, so has a

lower requirement for tank mixing."

Julian recommends application at the four litre rate in spring – timed just before bud burst. "But growers shouldn't forget that they have the opportunity to increase the rate up to eight litres – particularly useful in situations where we're looking for an increased persistence," he says.

Ronstar Liquid

- **Broad spectrum weed control**
- **Flexible use rates**
- **Strong crop safety for high value newly planted, young crops**