



GRAZER GUARD

Grazer Guard was introduced in 2013 as a calcium-based liquid agricultural fertiliser, intended for late growth application.

We have had interesting reports from Growers claiming that the product also acts as a bird repellent. Consequently replicated trials were carried out in 2013 on both grapes and cherries and these reports confirmed grower observations.

Product Detail

1. Calcium based. Sold as a fertiliser as it is not yet registered as a Bird Repellent.
2. Non Toxic to animals at nominated application rates.
3. Non Toxic to plants at nominated application rates.
4. Systemic in activity – leaf absorption.

5. Rain fast in one hour if a wetter is used.
6. Effective for a few weeks – say 2 – but up to 4 weeks.
7. Must be applied by itself – but need to add the usual volume of non-ionic wetter.
8. Aids plant growth.

The product is applied at a time just prior to the crop ripening or being attractive to birds. Coverage is absolutely essential and being a waxy surface (grape berry/cherry) a nonaggressive wetting agent is essential.

The product coats the surface of the fruit and is distasteful to birds. Birds have to attack the fruit, and therefore inflict damage; don't like it and move on. So damage is inflicted on fruit – albeit to a lesser extent.



Control - Untreated



Treated Bunch - no damage



Control



Treated

The level of bird damage reduction is approximately 50%.

Note: Damage will be inflicted on treated fruit albeit at a reduced rate.

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We have had reports from both broad acre and horticultural crops with the following observations:

CROP	GROWTH STAGE	BIRD VARIETIES	RATE/Ha
Canola	Cotyledon to 3-4 leaf stage	Starlings Skylarks	275 – 350ml (500ml)
Seeded Broccoli	Cotyledon onwards	Skylarks	350ml (500ml)
Poppies	Cotyledon onwards	Skylarks	350 – 500ml
Grapes	Mature – just prior to bird attack	Silvereyes Lorikeets Various parrot species	2 litres repeated with second application of 1 litre (if necessary)
Cherries	Mature – just prior to bird attack	Various parrot species	2 litres repeated with second application of 1 litre (if necessary)
Apples	Mature – just prior to bird attack	Various parrot species	2 litres repeated with second application of 1 litre (if necessary)
Rice	Mature	Bitterns Coots Swamp Hens	2 litres repeated with second application of 1 litre (if necessary)

*Note: the above table is simply a guideline and based on grower feedback and limited formal trial work.

On further investigation, we believe an Approval for this use would be difficult to achieve given “birds” include a full range and not all species would react in the same manner. It is really very difficult to be definite about bird varieties. We do however know that the product is effective against galahs / silver eyes / rosellas / bald coots / swamp hens / ducks / bitterns (trials in Rice – and successful) etc. I am also told the effect extends to wallabies as it has been the targeted species in Tasmania.

Grower feedback has been positive and sufficient to support the initial observation.

In summary Grazer Guard is performing very well as a bird repellent in a number of crops including tree crops, poppies, canola seedlings, etc. and at the same time providing a calcium boost at an important time.

AS WITH EVERYTHING, THE KEY IS:

- Correct timing: before birds start feeding
- Correct rate e.g. 3 litres on tree crops and vines.
- Excellent coverage of the target – therefore wetter is essential
- Correct water rate to the point of before runoff.
- Product effectiveness: 2 – 3 weeks, and then reapply
- Reapply after a rain event.

Available pack sizes: 1L, 5L and 10L

For more information, contact your local grochem representative

grochem.com
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