APHIDS AND PSYLLIDS SUCK. MAKE THEM STOP. FAST.

After an application of Beleaf® 50 SG insecticide, aphids and psyllids quit feeding in 30 minutes or less. Beleaf 50 SG insecticide features a unique chemistry that targets piercing and sucking insects and is soft on beneficials. The mode of action found in Beleaf 50 SG insecticide works on the target insect’s central nervous system, causing feeding cessation and reducing the threat of virus transmission. Talk to your FMC Star Retailer or visit FMCcrop.com to learn more about Beleaf 50 SG insecticide today.
Aphids and psyllids are small, but the damage these piercing and sucking insects cause to potatoes can be big. Aphids vector the potato virus Y (PVY) pathogen and other viruses while psyllids vector the bacterium for zebra chip disease. These viruses and other disease-causing organisms reduce yields and can make potatoes unmarketable, seriously limiting revenue.

Treat at First Detection

“While populations of both aphids and psyllids were down in recent years, we are not yet able to reliably predict future population levels,” according to Erik Wenninger, University of Idaho extension entomologist.

Zebra chip disease, vectored by psyllids, was first recorded in Idaho and the Columbia Basin in 2011. “PNW growers have never had a pest like the potato psyllid. It has the potential to establish and transmit a disease that will kill your plants before you know you have it. It can be devastating,” says Alan Schreiber, research consultant with Agriculture Development Group Inc., Eltopia, Wash. He recommends growers monitor for this insect and treat at first detection.

The right product will take care of both psyllids and aphids. “I have tested a lot of products, and Beleaf® 50 SG insecticide is one of the most effective aphid products in existence. Plus, it’s also effective against potato psyllids,” says Schreiber. “Beleaf 50 SG insecticide has a unique mode of action and is an excellent rotational partner in potato insect management programs.”

Working in Concert With Mother Nature

Wenninger notes that potato growers are interested in using softer chemistries to protect beneficial insects. “Some harsher chemistries face public scrutiny and are being regulated out of use,” he explains.

Schreiber describes Beleaf 50 SG insecticide as “one of the least disruptive insecticides used on potatoes. It is very selective. It won’t flare mite populations.”

Where Beleaf 50 SG insecticide fits in the rotation depends on insect pressure. “I prefer using Beleaf 50 SG insecticide earlier in the program to preserve beneficials, but if you have Colorado potato beetles early, you’ll want to use another product and then add Beleaf 50 SG insecticide later. Adding Beleaf 50 SG insecticide to a spray program is a very balanced crop protection tactic.”

Chad Redding, farm manager for a large potato grower, works in the Upper Columbia Basin. “Beleaf 50 SG insecticide allows me to target both psyllids and aphids while maintaining beneficial insect populations,” says Redding. “A lot of chemistries are non-selective, and they wipe out the beneficials with the belligerent pests. Beleaf 50 SG insecticide is more selective, and I like the residual I get with it. If used properly, it can give you a month of control. It’s very reliable.”

Don’t Let Aphids and Psyllids Suck the Profits from Your Potato Crop