

APHIDS SUCK. MAKE THEM STOP. FAST.

Aphids and plant bugs 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 beneficial insects and pollinators. 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.



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Advertorial

Don't Let Lygus Suck the Profits Out of Your Strawberry Crop

Appearances mean a lot, especially when it comes to strawberries. When purchasing fresh produce, consumers are looking for fruit that is cosmetically perfect. Growers must remain diligent and employ an integrated pest management program to protect both strawberry yields and quality.

Lygus bugs are a serious pest that can literally suck the profits right out of your strawberry crop. Lygus feeding significantly reduces both the yields and the quality of the fruit, and produces irregularly shaped, cat-faced strawberries, making them unmarketable for fresh market.

Surendra Dara, extension entomologist and affiliated IPM advisor in San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Ventura counties notes, "Growers always have to implement some sort of control measures to limit the damage because lygus bugs can cause as much as 40 – 50 percent damage."

Monitoring Lygus Populations

Dara has been monitoring lygus populations, and he has seen populations as high as 45 nymphs per 20 plants. "That is a big number considering the treatment threshold is one nymph per 20 plants," says Dara.

Mark Bolda, extension farm advisor in Santa Cruz, Monterey and San Benito counties expects heavy lygus pressure. "I have no expectation that populations will be lower. Lygus is nearly always a problem in strawberries and requires multiple applications," he says.

Combatting Resistance

Both Dara and Bolda have seen reduced efficacy of older insecticides, and they emphasize the importance of rotating modes of action to slow the development of insecticide resistance.

Beleaf® 50 SG insecticide offers a novel mode of action that specifically targets lygus and aphids in strawberry production. Its active ingredient is the only insecticide in IRAC Group 29. Beleaf 50 SG insecticide works by contact and ingestion. It quickly stops lygus feeding and the resulting damage to berries, while not disrupting beneficial insects and predatory mites.

"With its unique mode of action, Beleaf 50 SG insecticide is a good rotation partner. It expands the options for growers and helps them maintain the efficacy of other chemistries," explains Bolda.

Working in Concert With Nature

Dara's research is focused on evaluating chemical and non-chemical alternatives in different combinations and rotations to reduce the risk of resistance developing while achieving good control. "Based on my last two studies, Beleaf 50 SG insecticide can play a role in a strawberry IPM program," he says. "Having softer chemistries is always important for beneficial insects. Natural enemies play an important role in managing both major and minor pests in strawberries."



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