

## Lettuce aphid update

### Lettuce aphid weed survey

The Department of Primary Industries in Tasmania has surveyed weeds and other hosts for the lettuce aphid, (*Nasonovia ribis-nigri*). The lettuce aphid was recorded on **Hawksbeard** (*Crepis spp.*), **Nipplewort** (*Lapsana spp.*) and it was found around a glass house on **Hawkbit** (*Leontodon taraxacoides*).



Aphids on Hawksbeard (*Crepis spp.*)

The lettuce aphid was not recorded on the sampled sowthistle (*Sonchus oleraceus*) and Hawkweed (*Hieracium spp.*), even though Hawkweed is a secondary host in New Zealand. Currants (*Ribes spp.*) have been sampled and to date eggs have not been recorded. Indications are that *Nasonovia* are able to be present on their secondary hosts (including lettuce) all year in Tasmania. The lettuce aphid monitoring and survey work is ongoing.

For more information contact Lionel Hill  
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### Lettuce aphid projects

Horticulture Australia Limited and Ausveg Leafy group representatives met in late July and decided upon industry priorities for lettuce aphid research. The general consensus was that an IPM approach should be taken to manage this new pest. Projects will look at developing long term resistance management strategies that integrate cultural, chemical and natural predator control of aphids. Cultural strategies include using resistant varieties, controlling weeds around the farm and destroying old crops.

### How are growers coping with the aphid?

The lettuce aphid has had a presence in lettuce throughout the Tasmanian winter, in greatly reduced numbers when compared to the Autumn aphid levels. Fancy salad mix lettuces are grown year round and hearting lettuces are not cut over the winter. Planting started again in August for hearting varieties.

Both field grown salad mix and hearting lettuce growers are opting to use a Confidor® drench for lettuce aphid protection. This is being applied at the nursery level. The Confidor® drench adds an extra 1.5cents to the cost of a plant, this varies with rate. An offset to this cost is that growers are using a lot less Pirimor®, Dimethoate and other insecticides used for thrips and leaf hoppers. All residue tests to date have been well below the stated MRL for imidacloprid.

### Nas resistant variety trial

In late June, Gatton research station had a lettuce variety trial where Rijk Zwaan *Nasonovia* (Nas) resistant varieties were compared to the industry standards. The hearting varieties '45-82RZ', 'Magic', '45-60RZ', 'Annie', '45-98RZ', 'Casino' all showed similar tolerances to tipburn and other diseases. Generally the Nas resistant varieties performed equally or a little better than the standard varieties. In this trial 'Magic' and 'Annie' were smaller in size and were not quite as uniform as the other varieties.

In the Cos trial 'Carolus RZ', scored similarly to 'Lobjoits' in most criteria, however 'Lobjoits' was out of it's slot with 80% of lettuce bolting. The Nas resistant fancy lettuce also performed well, however some varieties were poor in uniformity and too open with leaves falling away from the heart.

For more information about the variety trial contact  
John Duff, QDPI Tel: (07) 5466 2213  
or  
Mark Stevens, Rijk Zwaan Tel: (0418) 741 355

The current lettuce IPM project is compiling data from *Nasonovia* resistant lettuce variety trials around the country. All the information collected from such trials is being compiled and will be published for the lettuce industry. If you have a variety trial that you would like to be included please contact the editor.

## Silverleaf whitefly

Last autumn researchers from Gatton research station built on previous work to establish a best management approach for silverleaf whitefly in lettuce. Previous trials showed that furrow application of a chemical spray band prior to planting gave longer silverleaf whitefly control than a single tray dip.

Results from this trial showed a tray dip of Confidor® combined with a foliar application of Chess® two weeks after transplanting gave equal control to soil banded Confidor® or TI-435. Seedling drenches would be the better option for most growers. Once the plants reach the hearting stage of growth, they tend to outgrow any potential whitefly buildup. By giving the plants a good start during establishment, lettuce can tolerate some whitefly numbers late.

For more information contact John Duff  
QDPI Tel: (07) 5466 2213

## Lettuce growing agfact

The NSW Department of Primary Industries has recently published a comprehensive agfact for field grown lettuce.



The publication covers production statistics, nutrition, varietal selection, weed control, irrigation and spray application. The agfact is well illustrated and also covers the main pest and disease issues encountered in field lettuce crops. The agfact can be found at: [www.agric.nsw.gov.au/reader/vegetables](http://www.agric.nsw.gov.au/reader/vegetables)

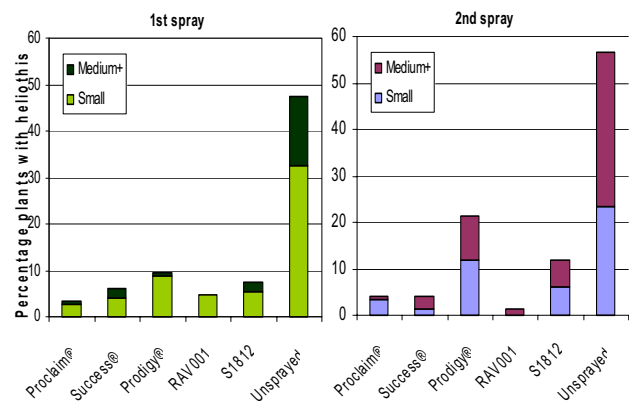
For more information contact the district horticulturist  
NSW DPI Tel: (02) 6951 2611

## Heliothis insecticide trials

During 2003, NSW DPI evaluated new insecticides for heliothis control. Unregistered insecticides from Syngenta, Sumitomo, Dow, Bayer and Organic Crop Protectants were evaluated. The trials included two field trials and five glass house trials. The glass house trials are preliminary studies and provide supplementary data to the field trials.

A field trial in December 2003 put the new insecticides to the test against a mix of *Helicoverpa armigera* and *Helicoverpa punctigera*. Insecticides evaluated in this trial were Proclaim® at 150g/ha, Success® at 400ml/ha, Prodigy® at 800ml/ha, RAV00 at 160ml/ha and S1812 at 100ml/ha.

Heliothis presence in lettuce field trial



### The final field trial significantly showed:

All insecticides gave equally good heliothis control after the first spray. As there was still plenty of pressure from small larvae, a second spray was applied after five days. A rain event less than 24 hours after this spray, reduced the efficacy of Prodigy® compared to the other chemicals. All treatments were still significantly better than the control. In this trial the insecticides were really tested as half the recommended rates were used and the weather included afternoon thunderstorms.

For more information contact Andrew Creek  
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The lettuce insecticide trials are available on the NSW DPI web site. [www.agric.nsw.gov.au/reader/vegetables](http://www.agric.nsw.gov.au/reader/vegetables)

### Carbaryl review

A draft report from the carbaryl chemical review was published by the APVMA in June. The review recommends deleting leafy vegetables from labels as dietary exposure is excessive.

For further information visit [www.apvma.gov.au](http://www.apvma.gov.au)

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