

Interim Recommendations for Fungicide Application For the Year 2022 – Circular Leaf Spot Disease

An interim recommendation has been issued by the RRISL for the management of the 'NEW LEAF DISEASE' – Circular Leaf Spot Disease. By now the wintering has started and this year will be an early wintering year, showing an uneven wintering condition. Based on the recommendations, following measures are to be adopted by the stakeholders.

FUNGICIDE APPLICATION PROGRAMME FOR MATURE RUBBER PLANTATIONS

- Mature rubber plantations that have shown more than 60% leaf fall condition during the year 2021 (By the second week of November) should be protected with three rounds of fungicide spraying to lower the disease severity condition, avoid any die-back condition and low yield levels.
- The first fungicide application is proposed - At the time of refoliation, when the plants show more than 50% of the canopy with apple green leaves.
- The second fungicide application has to be carried out after the appearance of all the (100%) apple green leaves and at the time of semi- maturing stage
- The third spraying can be delayed up to the late stages – spray before the onset of the monsoon rains (Directions for the third spraying will be provided later by the RRISL)

Any rainy days should be avoided while spraying the fungicides. At least 5 - 7 hour rain cease is essential for the plants to absorb the spray fungicides.

Chemical sprayers should be well calibrated to facilitate proper spraying. Otherwise there would be a run-off of the chemicals without showing any effectiveness.

The fungicide requirement should be calculated as given below;

Fungicide	Dilution rate	Fungicide Requirement/ha/ Application (approx.)	Fungicide Requirement/ha/ <u>TWO applications</u> (approx.)	Fungicide Requirement/ha/ <u>ONE applications</u> (approx.)
Carbendazim	5g/l	(5-6 tanks) 480g	1 kg	
Hexaconazole	5ml/l	480ml		0.5 l

FUNGICIDE APPLICATION PROGRAMME FOR IMMATURE RUBBER PLANTATIONS

The clearings should be sprayed with one of the two fungicides as shown above if the clearings show more than 30% leaf fall conditions

FUNGICIDE APPLICATION PROGRAMME FOR RUBBER NURSERIES

All the nurseries should be chemically protected – (prophylactically) for the prevention of establishment of the disease. The two fungicides should be applied alternatively.

Carbendazim 2 – 3g/liter

Hexaconazole 3 – 3ml/liter

The frequency of application should be changed (three days to seven days) based on the weather conditions /maturity stages of the leaves and the severity of the disease.

Currently the pesticide application using drones is also being tested at the RRISL.

Technical Specifications of Mist blower for fungicide spraying

Engine – 2 stroke, single cylinder

Displacement – 77 cc

Stroke - 36 mm

Power – 3.6 kW (5 Hp)

Carburetor – Diaphragm

Air volume – 1630 m³ per hour

Vertical height – should be more than 16 m (50 feet)

Should be single-man-operated (knap sack type)

With warranty – maximum possible period

- The plantations of the country have become very poorly managed without fertilizer for long periods, without weeding and also without good tapping practices. Hence to get the full advantage of the spraying programme, growers need to adopt the good agricultural practices together adopting a recommended tapping system.