

Post-harvest Management

BACTERIAL DISEASES AND SCALE INSECTS

Post-harvest management plays an important role in the health and productivity of plum orchards. When trees reach approximately 75% leaf drop, it is a good time to plan preventative control against bacterial diseases and scale.

By addressing these controllable factors early and with focus, growers can enter the new season with stronger trees, better protection and reduced risk.

75% Leaf Drop

Scale and bacterial diseases are addressed once 75% of the trees' leaves have already dropped.

It is beneficial for growers to enter the season knowing that the controllable factors have been optimally managed. It is therefore important to treat the above concerns in good time by focusing on a preventative seasonal control strategy.

It is also more cost-effective for the grower to implement the following:

 Bacterial Diseases and Xanthomonas	 Scale
2 x Copper oxychloride sprays	2 x Scale product and Orosorb/Wetcit sprays
* The products can be applied together, but this must be discussed with the chemical advisor.	

The following can be sprayed together but must please be discussed with the chemical advisor.

- » Copper oxychloride: 350 g/100 L water.
- » Scale product: According to chemical advisor recommendation.
- » Orosorb/Wetcit: 100 ml/100 L water.

Please only begin the above spray applications at least 10–14 days after the Nitrate Balancer post-harvest spray has been applied, but not before 75% of the trees' leaves have already dropped.

Scale Insects

In the industry, scale can cause destructive damage to trees, but scale also has a major negative financial impact when it moves from the trees onto the fruit.

It has been observed in the industry that there has definitely been an increased infestation of scale on different cultivars. This can have a direct negative impact on the production of these trees for a 2–3 year period.

Research has found that crawler movement does not stop, but only decreases during the winter months.

Scale: Control Strategy

The following preventative seasonal control strategy is followed with great success on most farms in the industry and can be discussed with the chemical advisor.

1. Post-harvest: 75% leaf drop.
2. Dormant stage: approximately June.

Bacterial Diseases

In the industry, bacterial diseases can cause serious and long-term damage through tree losses, infected fruit, weakened bearing units, reduced annual production and smaller fruit size.

Seasonal stress places pressure on tree health and immunity. This can make trees more vulnerable to bacterial diseases. Bacterial diseases can also worsen in production areas that are more humid than others..

Bacterial Diseases: Control Strategy

The following preventative seasonal control strategy is followed with great success on most farms in the industry and can be discussed with the chemical and soil health advisor.

1. Post-harvest: 75% leaf drop.
2. Dormant stage: June.
3. Bud swell/Balloon stage: July/August/September/October.
4. Stage depends on cultivar.

Products currently used for bacterial diseases:

- » Dormant and Bud swell/Balloon stage: Copper oxychloride.

Additional Control Strategy

The following preventative seasonal control strategy is followed with great success on most farms in the industry and can be discussed with the chemical and soil health advisor.

1. Focused soil health programme: strengthens immunity and supports root health.
2. Paint tree trunks from ground level to below the first bearing unit/wire, 1–2 times per season with a copper oxychloride and PVA mixture. This action is most effective before and after the rainy season.
3. Paint mixture: 10 litres PVA and 1 kg copper oxychloride.

3. Rest-breaking stage: July/August/September.
4. 1st or 2nd week of October.

On early cultivars, only 1 application is done during the growth period, provided it falls within the MRL and withholding period, with a 2nd application after harvest if needed.

Products currently used for scale control:

- » Dormant stage: Tokuthion.
- » Growth stage: Movento.
- » Growth stage: Biological products such as Met69, Bioneem and Neudosan.

Kind regards,
The Custom Plum team

