

FUNGICIDE TROUBLE - IS IT OVER?

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A month ago, crop damage was reported by several growers in Kalamazoo, Michigan area after using Cleary's 3336 flowable (F) fungicide at labeled rates on seeded plug trays and transplanted flats. The W.A. Cleary Chemical Corporation quickly determined the trouble appears to have been associated with two lots or batches of 3336 packaged as lot 3002 in gallon containers and 3012 in quart containers. It was not packaged in 2.5-gallon containers. Growers using other lots of 3336 in the same area of Michigan had no trouble and still have no trouble. Growers using wettable powder (WP) 3336 have never had a problem.

What are the symptoms of damage? The earliest effect is that roots of seedlings are killed or root development of transplanted seedlings is suppressed. Next, there appears to be a growth regulator effect. Terminals abort, leaves and stems thicken and leaves turn dark green. After 3 or 4 weeks, plants begin to regain normal growth. Seedlings will root above the damaged area. Transplanted seedlings will develop numerous side shoots with short stunted internodes. Only seedlings have been seriously damaged. Older plants that have been treated exhibit little or no damage.

There is not residual substance in the growing medium. Leaching and then replanting in containers that had treated plants resulted in normal plant growth. Growers who leached the growth medium soon after an accidental treatment have avoided damage.

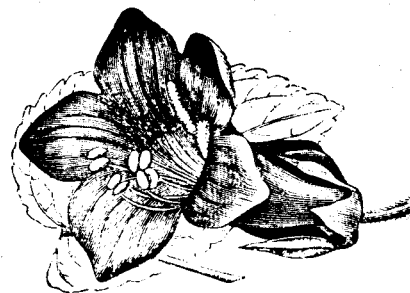
Is the problem still a threat to growers? If the suspect lots of 3336 continue to be used, damage may result. However, the Cleary Corporation has been attempting to ensure all suspect material is returned or otherwise accounted for. They know that 65 percent of the lots 3002 and 3012 were not sold. Furthermore, a significant amount that was sold has been used without incident on older plants. For the rest, distributors have been calling their customers to search for the suspect lots.

Distributors who originally received some of the suspect lots are picking up all the old style quarts and gallons. If you have quarts and gallons, what should you do? First call your distributor and determine if she or he had any of the suspect lots. Many distributors did not have suspect product. In that case, there is no problem! If there is a chance you may have suspect material, work with your distributor to get it replaced.

If you did not purchase 3336 flowable (F) between November, 1992 and mid-March, 1993, you probably do not have suspect 3336. Fungicide being sold now has a new fold-out label. The new containers have an "RP--" code patch on them. They are sealed with a new style metallic heat seal. This newer product has not caused any trouble.

To summarize, we can tell you the good news coming out of all of this.

- 1) 3336 wettable powder has never caused the problem described above.
- 2) Only 3336 flowable in the batch labeled 3002 (gallons) and 3012 (quarts) have caused problems. Other batches of 3336 flowable are fine.
- 3) Very little, if any, of this suspect product remains in the hands of growers. If in doubt, check with you distributor.



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