

Anthracnose Bulletin – October 2018



At 2018 Conference the issue of Anthracnose at flowering was discussed and prevention recognised as a matter of urgency. During previous Field Days all Focus Groves showed a loss of flowering due to Anthracnose infection, with northern groves reporting a substantial loss of fruit due to this infection.

This is a real threat for all olive groves and Stuart Tustin of Plant and Food Research undertook to investigate and make appropriate recommendations.

The recommendation is to spray with a fungicide called Protek, which has Carbendazim as the active ingredient. **This should be applied along with Manzate.**

You should be able to buy this product from your local Horticulture branch or other horticultural suppliers.

<https://www.horticulture.co.nz/151/contact-us/horticulture-branch-details>

Whilst the product is not licenced for use on olives in New Zealand it is used by other fruit crops in New Zealand, destined for both local and international markets.

The spray regime is as follows.

1. Apply the first spray when the flower buds begin to open on your earliest flowering variety
2. Apply the second spray 10 days later
3. Apply the third spray a further 10 days later and this should cover off the latest flowering variety.

The recommended application rate is as per the label for other stone fruit; 25ml per 100 litres of water.

The label also states to apply no more than twice a season. However the recommendation to apply three times is because many growers have different varieties mixed throughout their groves, which flower at different times. If you are able to clearly identify your varieties and their flowering times you will only need to do two applications as follows.

1. Apply the first spray when the flower buds begin to open
2. Apply the second spray 10 days later.