

QA AND ASK THE EXPERTS



Q: I would like to know what the shelf life is for Marathon granular 1%, and though it is not recommended to store over 100 degrees, what happens if it is?

A: Marathon 1%G is a fairly stable formulation. If kept dry and out of humid conditions that could cause it to become caked, it should last for several years (more than two). But this is an assumption and not documented. Marathon 1%G is formulated on a clay carrier and caking has not been an issue. High temperature could start the degradation process.

The shelf or storage life of pesticides is dependent on storage conditions, the formulation and the container it is stored in. To help maintain the shelf life of stored pesticides, store them out of direct sunlight and keep them dry. Protect from temperature extremes. If the storage temperature is continuously over 100 degrees there is a problem with the storage facility, but occasional brief spikes should not be a problem.

Pesticide containers can affect the storage and shelf life. When stored for long periods, these containers may breakdown or may not seal correctly. To reduce the problem of having old or ineffective pesticides, we recommend you tag or mark pesticide containers upon delivery with the date of purchase.

Q: We are using Judo on our orchids and would like to do an application against soft scale also with Marathon. Can we tank mix these two products?

A: Control of soft scale can be very daunting as it may take a period of time to fully clean up the population. Marathon II will control scale. Applications made during the crawler stage can be even more effective as the crawlers are very vulnerable at this stage of growth.

Tank mixing of pesticides can and is done with a number of products. Both Judo and Marathon II are compatible with many other pesticides, themselves included.

Tank mixing more than three products can lead to problems. Although product labels may state compatibilities, we would recommend you conduct a jar test just to make certain your spray

water and products are indeed compatible. This test is easy to do, simply mix proportional amounts of the pesticides into proportional amount of water, mix well and let stand for five minutes. If the material stays mixed or can re-mix easily then you have a compatible spray mix for your operation. For further information on tank mixing or the jar test contact your local OHP representative.

Q: In our program for spider mite control we use a variety of products and application methods with varying degrees of success. Are there any guidelines you can provide that will help us better match product with application method?

A: The good news is that there are numerous products registered for spider mite control in greenhouses – fourteen different products in nine mode of action groups. The bad news is that growers still have problems with control. The reasons for this are many, including detecting the infestation too late, pesticide resistant mite populations, not properly rotating products in different mode of action groups, and application methods used for control.

By application methods we are referring to the equipment used to control the mites, high volume sprays compared with medium to low volume sprays. It is well documented that low volume spray equipment uses less spray volume and produces more small spray drops than high volume spray equipment. More spray drops should result in better coverage and therefore better control, right? Well, not always.

Back in the old days at The Ohio State University we did a series of experiments comparing application equipment for insect and mite control. The amount of active ingredient applied was the same. We used Avid in these experiments, the newest mite control product at the time. The results were that the higher spray volumes resulted in better spider mite control than with the lower volume sprays, even though the amount of active ingredient was equal.

Low and ultra-low volume sprays are very effective for controlling some pests – particularly small insects that are exposed on the plants – but in the case of spider mite control, higher volume “wet” sprays, properly applied, are probably more effective.



HAVE A QUESTION FOR THE EXPERTS?
E-MAIL YOUR QUESTION TO
ASKTHEEXPERTS@OHP.COM
www.ohp.com

