

Red Leaf Blotch Program

About Almond Red Leaf Blotch

Polystigma amygdalinum is a new pathogen on almonds in California. It gets the common name Red Leaf Blotch from yellow infection spots that turn into orange or red-brown blotches on the leaves. Affected leaves can result in premature defoliation, decreased photosynthetic capability, and reduced yield.

Red leaf blotch has one infection cycle per season and overwinters in infected leaves on the orchard floor. Infection typically initiates at petal fall, starting mid-January continuing through the end of May.

Polystigma amygdalinum has a latent period of 35-40 days, meaning that when symptoms are finally visible, the infection period has already passed. Preventative applications are highly recommended for the most effective control of this disease.

Application Notes

Compatible Fungicides

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| Conventional | Quadris Top, Merivon, Luna Sensation, Abound, Quash, Pristine, Ph-D |
| Organic | Romeo, OSO, Regalia |

For optimal performance, ensure thorough coverage of the foliage. Apply 75-200 gallons per acre of spray solution. Use a non-ionic surfactant. FRAC groups 7, 11, M3, M4 and some FRAC3 chemistries have been shown to be effective against red leaf blotch.

Disease Management with OxiDate 5.0

Using OxiDate 5.0 as a stand-alone or adding it to any compatible tank mix, will provide quick knockdown of red leaf blotch and other diseases present such as anthracnose and shot hole.

- Use OxiDate 5.0 at a dilution rate between 1:200 to 1:100 (0.5% v/v-1.0% v/v).
- Three applications are recommended to manage red leaf blotch. Apply OxiDate 5.0 at petal fall (1), two to three weeks after (2), and five to six weeks after petal fall (3) if wet weather continues.
- OxiDate 5.0's active ingredients have no known resistance, allowing for frequent applications with consistent results.
- Early preventive management is crucial for managing Red Leaf Blotch disease. Prepare a fresh solution for each application. Do not store or reuse mixed spray solution. Apply in 75-200 gallons of water per acre, ensuring adequate coverage of foliage.

Additional Resources

- OxiDate 5.0 Tank Mix Compatibility Guide
- OxiDate 5.0 FIFRA 2(ee) Tree Nut Recommendation



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