

Turf Solutions

Tank Mixing Technical Update

There is a lot of 'advice' in the turf industry at the moment about tank mixing. Some of this advice is not only dangerous (i.e. to the turf and potentially end user!) but could also be illegal with resulting fines and insurance problems etc. The advice from PSD states that there are only TWO approved types of tank mix – these are:

a. Convenience tank-mixes and b. Positive tank-mixes. In order to make a recommendation for either type of tank mix, additional data or information is needed by the PSD to give label approval for the tank mix. If the tank mix is not approved by the manufacturer there is no guarantee of performance or safety of the resultant mix.

For the Convenience Tank Mix the supplier must be able to produce a Compatibility Assurance Statement to show that the two products can be safely mixed.

If there is a claim of improved or similar efficacy by tank mixing or improved or similar efficacy with reduced rates of one or more of the active ingredients this then becomes a Positive Tank Mix. If this is being recommended as an approved mix additional efficacy data must be on the label to back up these claims. If a tank mix is recommended as an approved mix and used without the above data this could be illegal and will have implications for insurance liability. PSD have stated that if a company is recommending reduced application rates, they would request that the company produce data to back the claims made.

The following information is official advice from the PSD regarding approved label tank mixes.

a. Convenience tank-mixes - The combination by the user of two or more pesticides in the same spray tank to reduce the number of spray operations. A convenience tank-mix can also occur when a product label recommends, in a 'Compatibility' section, that the product can be mixed with another product. Such tank-mixes must be shown to be physically and biologically compatible (Compatibility Assurance Statement).

b. Positive tank-mixes - The combination by the user of two or more pesticides in the same spray tank to obtain better pest control than if the products were applied alone. A positive tank-mix occurs when a product label recommends a mixture to give an enhanced effect when the tank-mix is used (e.g. to control additional pests; to reduce the application rate of one or more of the products). In addition to the data listed for convenience tank-mixes, where a positive tank-mix recommendation is being made, then additional efficacy data will be required to support the proposed positive tank-mixes. This also applies to positive tank-mix recommendations made with adjuvants.

The Scotts Company is happy to produce compatibility assurance statements for their products on request. Label instructions on pesticides should be followed at all times. For further information: www.pesticides.gov.uk.



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