

VG16060 Vegetable Agrichemical Pest Management Needs and Priorities – FINAL Industry Update

SUMMARY

As this project comes to an end in July 2020, VG16060 Project Coordinator, Patrick Arratia on behalf of AUSVEG and Hort Innovation would like to thank growers, agronomists and researchers who have contributed to this project and for taking the time to attend to regional crop specific workshops, one-on-one visits, complete the online crop specific pest surveys and participate in phone interviews. Pests priorities identified during industry consultation will guide the future of the vegetable industry crop protection priorities.

GROUND WORK

Industry consultation: During the lifespan of VG16060 Vegetable Agrichemical Pest Management Needs and Priorities the Project Coordinator consulted and engaged with vegetable growers and agronomists across the vegetable growing regions in Australia. With the assistance of regional VegNET officers and other industry stakeholders, VG16060 Project Coordinator organised a total of 30 crop specific meetings, where growers and agronomists sat down to discuss pest and disease issues affecting crops grown in their regions. During this project over 200 growers and agronomists were directly engaged and consulted in order to find pest priorities and relevant agchem access issues. Complimenting direct industry consultation, another 250 growers and agronomists took the time to complete the Online Crop Specific Pest Surveys, which was a great alternative tool to reach out to other industry stakeholders.

Aiding in the update of VG18004 - Vegetable Strategic Agrichemical Review Process (SARP) Report Updates: The VG16060 Project Coordinator has developed crop specific reports which will be used for the update and development of SARP documents for:

| Crop Group | Crop Specific Reports for the update of the SARP documents | # of consulted growers and agronomists |
|--|--|--|
| Bulb Vegetables | Leek | 30 |
| | Spring Onions | 17 |
| | Shallots | 8 |
| | Fennel bulb | 7 |
| Brassica Vegetables | Brassica Vegetables | 93 |
| Fruiting Vegetables - Cucurbits | Cucumber | 44 |
| | Chokos | 0 |
| | Zucchini | 30 |
| | Pumpkin | 23 |
| | Squash | 6 |
| Fruiting Vegetables other than Cucurbits | Eggplant | 26 |
| | Capsicum | 47 |
| | Chilli | 12 |
| | Sweet Corn | 27 |

| | | |
|---|------------------------|------------|
| | Okra | 15 |
| Leafy Vegetables (including brassica leafy vegetables) | Lettuce (head lettuce) | 40 |
| | Leafy lettuce | 23 |
| | Spinach | 31 |
| | Silverbeet | 18 |
| | Fennel | 7 |
| | Brassica Leafy | 34 |
| Legume Vegetables (succulent seeds) | Green Beans | 31 |
| | Snow Peas | 17 |
| | Sugar snap peas | 13 |
| Root & Tuber vegetables | Carrot | 44 |
| | Beetroot | 19 |
| | Swede | 4 |
| | Turnips | 6 |
| | Parsnips | 8 |
| | Radish | 5 |
| | Horseradish | 2 |
| | Chicory | 0 |
| Stalk & Stem Vegetables | Celery | 18 |
| | Artichoke | 8 |
| | Rhubarb | 12 |
| Herbs | Parsley | 15 |
| | TOTAL | 740 |

Most of the pest priorities identified during VG16060 industry consultation are the same pests priorities identified in the 2014 SARP documents, but for some priorities growers have ranked them differently, possibly because of climatic conditions, geographic location, grower practices, seed varieties and agchem availability at the time of industry consultation. For example: in regions where brassica crops are intensively grown, with no crop rotation nor cover cropping, some growers would rank club root as a high priority issue. Other brassica growers that practice crop rotation and/or cover cropping would rank club root as a manageable moderate to low priority issue. Similar situation occurs for other pest issues such as mites and western flower thrips, ranked as high priority when hard broad-spectrum insecticides are used, and for growers, with an IPM approach, would rank them as a moderate priority. Additionally, there are some important new pest priorities that were not identified during the 2014 SARP update that will aid the vegetable industry gain needed agrichemical access.

Availability of agrichemical gap and solutions reports: Information gathered during grower and agronomist consultation was added to the VG16060 database and has been used to produce the top 5 pest priority gap list that has been successfully used at the 2018 and 2019 Agchem forums. The top 5 pest priority gap lists and the update of the SARP reports will direct the vegetable industry Agchem access in the future. When needed by the industry, VG16060 Project Coordinator has assisted growers and agronomist in mediation with Hort Innovation for requests for Minor Use Permits. To date, a total of 13 Minor Use Permit Requests, received by the VG16060 Project Coordinator, have been successfully processed and submitted by Hort Innovation to the APVMA for assisting vegetable growers to have better agrichemical access for managing pest priority issues where there is limited agchem access.

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