

Users' guide for bananas



Luna[®] PRIVILEGE

Powerful new systemic chemistry to control key banana leaf diseases

Luna[®] Privilege Fungicide introduces new Group 7 chemistry to Australia, providing banana growers with a strong and versatile tool to manage yellow sigatoka, leaf speckle and cordana leaf spot.

Luna Privilege is now the most effective fungicide against yellow sigatoka available to Australian banana producers, which in turn results in vigorous leaf growth to help produce bigger, healthier bunches.

If Luna Privilege is used according to the Bayer recommended resistance management guidelines, it will help banana growers to produce larger quantities of more marketable fruit – and protect the effectiveness of other fungicides – for many years to come.

Mode of action

Luna Privilege contains the active ingredient fluopyram, discovered by Bayer CropScience, a new class of chemistry within the 'SDHI' family (Group 7). Fluopyram

reduces the fungi's ability to germinate, colonise and sporulate on the surface of the leaves. It has a translaminar effect, which allows the movement of product from the top of leaves to the underside, protecting the plant's untreated surfaces.

Resistance management

As explained in more detail over the page, Luna Privilege should be used as part of a regular program of fungicide sprays, alternating with fungicides from different chemical mode of action groups. All banana fungicides should be treated as protectants, used at the full label rate and used according to resistance management guidelines.



LUNA PRIVILEGE IN BANANAS AT A GLANCE

Target diseases	Yellow sigatoka Leaf speckle Cordana leaf spot
Use rate	150 mL/ha (plus a high quality, water-miscible mineral crop oil at 3 to 5 L/ha)
Water volume	Luna Privilege should be diluted with sufficient water to ensure thorough coverage of all leaf surfaces (minimum 20 L/ha spray volume when applied by aircraft).
Crop oil	Luna Privilege should only be applied with a high quality, water-miscible mineral crop oil at 3 to 5 L/ha. Select the oil rate based upon disease pressure, i.e. use a lower oil rate under low disease pressure, and higher oil rate under high disease pressure.
Maximum sprays	Do not apply Luna Privilege more than 4 times to any banana block in a 12-month period.
No-spray window	No application of Luna Privilege or any other Group 7 fungicide should be made from the end of May to the start of October.
Rotation	Each spray of Luna Privilege should be separated by a minimum of 3 applications of fungicides from alternative fungicide activity groups.
Compatibility	For information on the compatibility of Luna Privilege with other products, contact your local Bayer CropScience representative.
Withholding period	Nil

GETTING THE MOST OUT OF LUNA PRIVILEGE

The application guidelines for Luna Privilege have been developed to help you get the best possible results from each application and, importantly, to avoid over-use so it remains effective in future years.

Following the use patterns shown in the table will help maintain the effectiveness of products from other fungicide groups as well as Luna Privilege.

RECOMMENDED LUNA PRIVILEGE SPRAY PROGRAM

The recommended Luna Privilege spray program shown in the table and listed below is deliberately rigorous to ensure the best disease control outcome for banana growers.

Just four applications are recommended in any 12-month period: they will generally be in October, December, February and either April or May.

The four sprays can therefore be applied at 8–10 week intervals over a 7–8 month period between the start of October and the end of May.

This schedule allows for:

- good timing to disrupt disease cycles;
- good integration with other fungicide groups;
- good intervals, with at least three alternative sprays between each Luna Privilege spray; and
- a suitably long no-spray window (4–5 calendar months) during winter.

Good de-leafing schedules are critical to good disease control and good resistance management, and should be maintained at all times.

Month	Week	Product / Activity
Sept	39	De-leafing
Oct	40	DMI + OIL
	41	
	42	LUNA PRIVILEGE + OIL
	43	
Nov	44	PROTECTANT
	45	
	46	PROTECTANT
	47	
	48	DMI + OIL
Dec	49	De-leafing
	50	LUNA PRIVILEGE + OIL
	51	
	52	PROTECTANT
Jan	1	
	2	PROTECTANT
	3	
	4	DMI + OIL
	5	De-leafing
Feb	6	LUNA PRIVILEGE + OIL
	7	
	8	PROTECTANT
	9	
Mar	10	DMI + OIL
	11	
	12	PROTECTANT
	13	De-leafing
Apr	14	DMI + OIL
	15	
	16	LUNA PRIVILEGE + OIL
	17	
May	18	PROTECTANT

CRITICAL FACTORS

1. Always use a crop oil

Our trials show significantly better results when Luna Privilege is applied with oil. We recommend a robust rate of a good quality oil (e.g. Sacoa BioPest® at 3.5–5 L/ha).

2. Use the full label rate

Luna Privilege should always be applied at 150 mL/ha to ensure each application is as effective as possible.

3. Never apply back-to-back (consecutive) sprays of Luna Privilege

Each spray of Luna Privilege should be separated by a minimum of 3 applications of fungicides from alternative fungicide activity groups. This means there should be an interval of at least 8–10 weeks between any two applications of Luna Privilege.

4. Observe the no-spray window

No application of Luna Privilege or any other Group 7 fungicide should be made from the end of May until the start of October.

5. Apply another fungicide within 14–21 days

It is important to ensure that alternative fungicide chemistry is applied before a generation cycle of the disease passes, so always re-spray with the full rate of a registered fungicide within 14–21 days of any spray of Luna Privilege.

6. De-leaf

De-leafing is the basis of good banana disease management, and is critical to fungicide resistance management to reduce inoculum levels regularly. It also ensures that Luna Privilege is not applied to heavily diseased leaves.

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 Bayer CropScience

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