

# PROPER CHEMICAL USE KEY TO CANEGRUB CONTROL

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Canegrub is and always has been the most significant economic pest of Australian sugarcane. We currently have a single active ingredient - imidacloprid - available in two formulations, that provides economic control for all species of this pest. It is imperative that we do everything we can as an industry to keep this insecticide as part of our arsenal against canegrub.

Good grub management requires a number of key/important steps:

## 1. IS IT GRUB DAMAGE?

Identify the cause of poor growth, stool roll out or gappy ratoons. Don't assume it is grub damage, go and have a look. Chemicals should only be used if canegrubs are actually present.

## 2. IDENTIFY THE SPECIES OF GRUB PRESENT

SRA has a Canegrub Identification Chart for each district, which can be downloaded here: [sugarresearch.com.au/pest/canegrubs/](http://sugarresearch.com.au/pest/canegrubs/)

## 3. KNOW THE LIFE CYCLE OF THE GRUB SPECIES

Does it have a 1 or 2-year life cycle? This may change the management strategy.

## 4. CARRY OUT A RISK ASSESSMENT

- Identify blocks that are susceptible/damaged.
- What is the level of pressure in each of these blocks - number of larvae per stool?
- What is the predicted level of damage for next season - based on your knowledge, local experience, history of damage, soil type?
- What is the ratoon age of the crop?

## 5. IDENTIFY YOUR CONTROL OPTIONS

Crop management (trap cropping, time of harvest), chemicals.

## 6. IF TREATING WITH INSECTICIDE, SET UP AND CALIBRATE YOUR EQUIPMENT CORRECTLY.

The Queensland Sugarcane Insecticide Stewardship Program, a joint initiative involving SRA, the Queensland Government Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF), and chemical companies Nufarm and Bayer, aims to encourage correct placement of imidacloprid in the field and ensure maximum performance against canegrubs.

This is a great initiative and demonstrates not only the importance of this insecticide to the industry, but also the industry's desire to demonstrate our responsible use of such products.

Research data has shown that through strategic use of these products, along with correct placement, the risk to nearby waterways and the Great Barrier Reef are reduced.

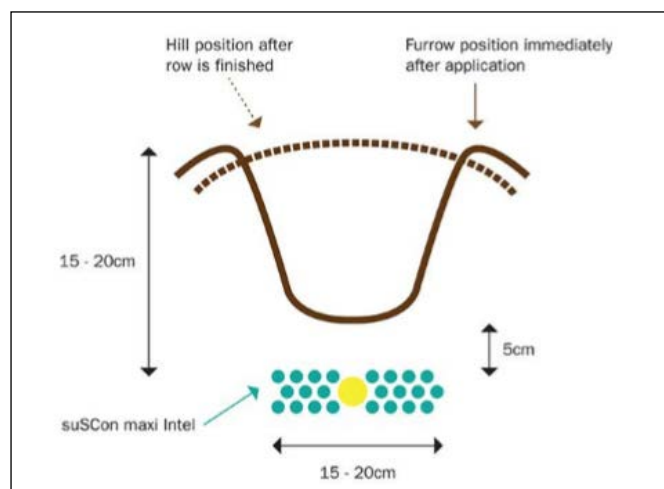
If treating blocks with insecticide, use the product wisely. Below are a number of key points to consider when using insecticide control.

## SUSCON® MAXI INTEL® APPLICATION – AT PLANTING, FIRST WORKING OR FINAL HILL-UP

- Ensure label directions are followed.
- Set up and calibrate your equipment before you start, under field conditions to account for wheel slip.
- For single row planting, apply the granules at 150-225g/100m row in a band 150-200mm wide at planting, first working or at final hill-up, with timing and resulting placement of the granules dependent on species of canegrub being targeted.
- Granules should be covered with 150-200mm soil after final cultivation or hilling-up.
- For dual row planted with rows up to 500mm apart, the 225g/100m row rate is split so 112.5g/100m row of product is applied under each row.

Examples of application of suSCon maxi Intel placement from Nufarm product label:

### Application at planting





Below ground: actual presence of grubs

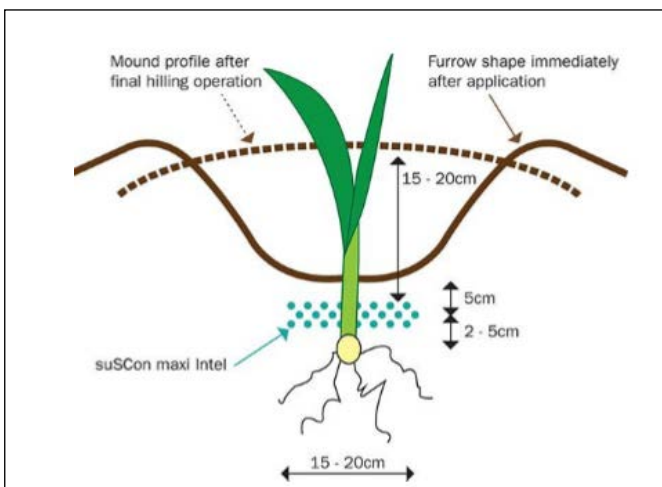


Above ground: damage to crops due to canegrubs.

### LIQUID APPLICATION – IN PLANT OR RATOON CANE

- Ensure individual product labels are followed for detailed information on application set-up and band-width recommendations.
- Application rate is mL of product per 100m of row, up to the maximum amount per ha as specified on the label(s).
- **For Plant cane**  
Timing of application and resulting placement depth is dependent on the canegrub species being targeted. **MUST** be covered with a minimum of 50mm soil immediately after application. Ensure the band is 100-150mm below the soil surface at final cultivation or hill-up.
- **For Ratoon cane**  
Apply 100-125mm below the soil surface. Coulter slot **MUST** be immediately closed following application. Set up and calibrate your equipment before you start.

Application in the furrow



### HANDY HINTS TO ENSURE GOOD SET UP OF YOUR LIQUID APPLICATOR

#### RATE:

Determine the appropriate rate based on species of canegrub present and the anticipated level of pest pressure.

It is critical that the rate of water applied by your applicator is equal to or greater than 1.5L/100m of row.

Calibrate the applicator before you start. SRA has a handy factsheet to help with the calibration of liquid insecticide applicators for canegrub management at: <https://bit.ly/2XLprJN>

#### PLACEMENT:

For plant cane, placement timing and application depth is determined by the canegrub species being targeted.

For ratoon cane, soil type, soil moisture and compaction can all impact Coulter depth.

Frequently check Coulter depth to ensure placement is 100-150mm below the soil surface.

Cover the treated band with at least 100mm of **UNTREATED** soil immediately.

Check the coulter slot closure by pulling the trash away and making sure the slot is closed. A suitable slot closing device such as a press wheel, Stool Zipper® or chain is required to ensure this happens correctly.

Only run the applicator pumps once the coulter is at the correct depth in the soil and turn off before lifting the implement at the end of the row.

Effective canegrub management requires monitoring, planning and management. Contact your local advisor to assist you get it right on your farm. ■