

NEMguard

NEMguard, a proven nematicide containing active ingredients formulated from garlic (*Allium sativum*) has been added to Certis' portfolio.

Garlic extract has long been regarded as a substance which protects against crop pests and diseases, but has lacked supporting trial work. NEMguard, however, is a registered product and offers a zero MRL (maximum residue limit) solution to vegetable growers.

Robert Lidstone, Certis' marketing and business development manager, says that this is an exciting new era for the crop protection industry, and while this product is currently approved for use on certain root vegetable crops, it's hoped other uses will follow.

"Certis is pleased to be part of this unique collaboration with product manufacturer Ecospray, who have brought NEMguard to the market. The product is a result of extensive trials and development work, that's resulted in garlic extract, the active substance, being granted Annex 1 listing in the EU as a nematicide."

NEMguard is a granular nematicide currently registered for use on carrots and parsnips for the reduction of free living and root knot nematodes, explains Stephen Silvester, Ecospray* sales director.

"Naturally occurring within the garlic extract are polysulfides which penetrate the cytosol of a nematode," he says. "This causes oxidative stress to the thiols, which kill the target nematodes within the first 12-24 hrs after contact."

"NEMguard is highly effective against several nematode species and this is backed up by trials that have shown high levels of efficacy. It can be used in combination with conventional nematicides, biological and cultural controls," he adds. "A significant advantage of the product is that it has no MRL, and with multi-site activity, development of resistance is extremely unlikely."

Nematodes are the most common cause of parsnip and carrot deformities. They overwinter in soil, and their feeding activity stimulates the plant cells to form galls on the roots.

These galls prevent the plant from accessing adequate water and nutrients, which then stunt plant growth. Root knot nematodes are less active in cold temperatures, so overwintering parsnips is a good way to help prevent damage from the pests.

Robert explains that this nematicide has wide-ranging scope because it can be incorporated into a residue reduction and anti-resistance programmes.

“The addition of NEMguard to our portfolio is an exciting development for Certis, and extremely pertinent given the overall drive by the industry to reduce residue levels. It offers effective and sustainable control of nematodes.”