


Montana Grain Growers Have New Tool for Wheat Stem Sawfly Larvae

THIMET® Granular Insecticide receives Montana registration for control of damaging pest



We're excited to be part of bringing solutions to Montana wheat growers

NEWPORT BEACH, Calif. – It is estimated by Montana State University that damages from wheat stem sawfly cost Montana grain growers anywhere from \$75 to \$100 million annually and prevent nearly 9.7 million bushels of wheat from reaching the consumer market.

Those growers now have a tool to fight wheat stem sawfly in THIMET® Insecticide from AMVAC Chemical Corporation (AMVAC). THIMET, a soil and systemic insecticide, was granted a 24(c) registration, special local need (SLN) label, by the state of Montana for use on wheat to specifically control wheat stem sawfly larvae.

Wheat stem sawfly is not just the most extensively studied insect pest in the northern Plains, but also economically the most destructive pest for Montana wheat growers. Even after nearly a century of researching and fighting this pest, crop rotation, tillage and biological tools were the only options wheat growers had for fighting the wheat stem sawfly, and those did not provide the control needed.

Recently, researchers from Montana State University reached out to AMVAC in an effort to continue the search for an insecticide that would be effective in controlling the wheat stem sawfly larvae. This discussion led to tests on THIMET and what they found may change how wheat growers manage the pest.

“THIMET is a broad spectrum granular insecticide that is commonly used on potatoes, sugar beets and other crops to control a variety of pests,” said Paul Vaculin, THIMET Product Manager. “The product’s systemic activity allows it to control foliar feeding pests such as aphids,

leafhoppers and leafminers in potatoes and sugar beets and it is this activity that is the key to controlling the wheat stem sawfly larvae.”

The new SLN label approved in Montana allows the use of THIMET for post emergence applications in wheat. For growers using THIMET, it will be drilled between crop rows at a depth of at least one-inch below the soil surface using air powered granular seeder or pesticide application equipment.

“The application is timed prior to the beginning of sawfly flight in the spring to control hatching of the larvae inside the wheat stem,” said Tom Larsen, AMVAC Product Development Manager.

Now, because of THIMET, Montana wheat growers have an extremely effective tool for combatting this destructive pest before adults emerge in late May and June.

“We’re excited to be part of bringing solutions to Montana wheat growers,” said Vaculin. “Winter and spring wheat are critical to the Montana economy, and THIMET will help growers protect their yields and improve profitability.”

Growers who are interested in using THIMET this spring should contact their local ag retailer. For more information on THIMET visit amvac-chemical.com, call 1-888-462-6822 or contact your local AMVAC representative.

AMVAC is a business unit of American Vanguard Corporation (NYSE:AVD).