

CORRECT APPLICATION OF SODIUM FLUOSILICATE TERMITE BAIT IS ESSENTIAL FOR EFFECTIVE CONTROL

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Harvester termite outbreaks

Reports of harvester termite outbreaks have been coming in hard and fast over the past two months. Areas that are affected by large scale outbreaks are the Northern Cape, Northwest, western Free State and Mpumalanga. In some areas veld and grazing have been damaged very badly by termite outbreaks and it warrants an environmentally sound approach to control and suppress the insects.

Appropriate use of registered termite baits

Termite baits that contain sodium fluosilicate are very effective against harvester termites. The correct application is paramount for effective termite control: the bait must be placed around active burrows and termite mounds. Applied as a broadcast application such as from a fertilizer spreader is not a registered use and is totally ineffective as the termites will only collect bait that is sprinkled directly around the nest.

CropLife SA accredited agents are requested to inform their clients of the correct application of sodium fluosilicate termite baits and to refrain from broadcast application.

Off-label use of insecticides

Rumours of off-label use of highly toxic insecticides like parathion is of great concern to CropLife SA. Agents are strongly urged to not supply such products to farmers and to report such misuse to CropLife SA. Parathion is extremely toxic and will cause damage to the environment if used to control harvester termites.

For more information please contact:

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