

Two-Way Bacterial Spot & Worm Protection on Peppers and Tomatoes

New tool manages copper resistance and protects yield and fruit quality

Bacterial spot is the last thing you need to attack your tomatoes and peppers. And with copper resistance growing, you need options to add to your management programs throughout the season and all the way up to harvest.

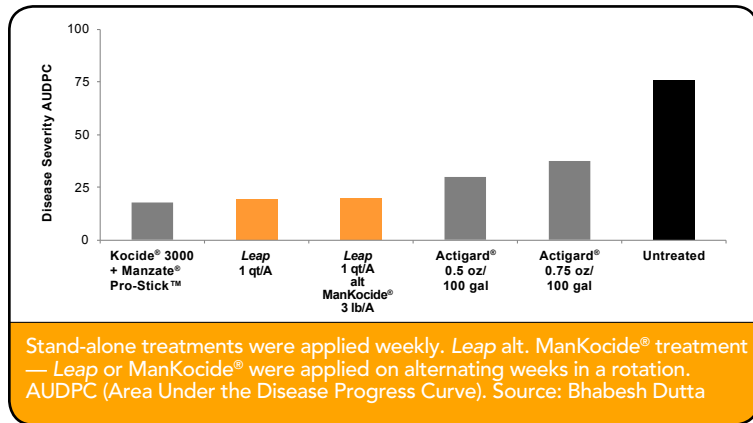
Many growers have come to rely on copper-based sprays for treating bacterial spot. Even though copper can be an inexpensive and somewhat effective solution, there is increasing resistance to copper due to overuse.

Carolyn Syphrit, vegetable crop manager at Valent, said tomato and pepper growers who are forced to spray copper at high rates and more frequently to protect their crops from bacterial disease spread can experience crop injury that leads to yield drag.

Two-Way Protection: Bacterial Spot + Worm Control

Leap® ES Bacterial Disease Management Biological Insecticide Emulsifiable Suspension is an excellent rotational partner, starting early in the season and continuing all the way up to harvest. Leap provides two-way protection of bacterial spot and Lepidoptera larvae (worms), making it the only alternative to copper-based products that manages bacterial spot and also enhances worm control.

Research from Bhabesh Dutta, assistant professor and extension vegetable disease specialist at the University of Georgia, shows that Leap is an effective bacterial spot management tool. In bell pepper disease management programs where Leap was applied in alternating weeks in a rotation, plants had the same or less disease severity than grower standards.



With bacterial spot, you have to be proactive in defense. Having a rotational partner that is effective and flexible to use at any crop stage is key in promoting fruit quality, maximizing crop safety and protecting yield."

- Carolyn Syphrit, vegetable crop manager

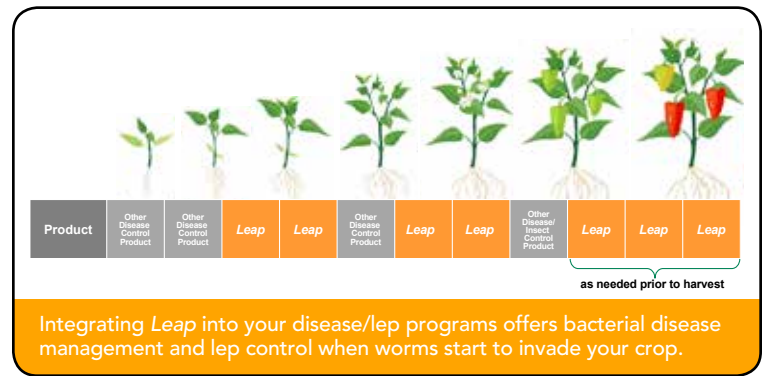
Leap triggers the plant's natural defense system against pathogen infections by signaling to other leaves remote from the disease. The plant then produces proteins that form a barrier around the infection to prevent disease from spreading. Using Leap also provides effective control of the yield-diminishing Lepidoptera larvae (worms). Plus, Leap is an excellent rotational partner in resistance management plans.

Add Flexibility to Your Program

You can use Leap at any growing stage of tomatoes and peppers, meaning that Leap is customizable for your individual program needs. With a favorable 12-hour reentry interval (REI), applications can be made up to the day of harvest.

The following illustration demonstrates how incorporating Leap can complement your program — even up to the day of harvest.

Example of a Possible Program



"Leap is a solid fit for a bacterial disease management programs for tomatoes and peppers," Syphrit said. "Leap offers growers the added value of flexibility because applications can be made early on, up until the very last spray at harvest."



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