## Using Difenoconazole Fungicides for Effective Disease Management

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Difenoconazole is a sterol-inhibiting (SI) fungicide recently registered for use on grapes and other fruit. It belongs to FRAC Group 3, along with myclobutanil (Rally), tebuconazole (Elite, Tebuzol, Orius), and fenarimol (Vintage, formerly Rubigan). Difenoconazole protects vines and fruit from powdery mildew (PM), black rot (BR), and Phomopsis cane and leaf spot.

Difenoconazole is sold in two premixes for managing multiple wine grape diseases, both manufactured by Syngenta Crop Protection.

- Revus Top contains mandipropamid and difenoconazole. Mandipropamid is a new chemistry (Group 40) effective only against downy mildew (DM). Revus Top is available under a supplemental label in Maryland for use on grapes for control of PM, DM, BR, and Phomopsis. Growers must have a copy of the supplemental label in their possession to apply Revus Top legally. Download the Maryland supplemental label at: http://www.syngentacropprotection.com/pdf/special/SCP1278AS41210.pdf.
- *Inspire Super* contains cyprodinil and difenoconazole. Cyprodinil (Group 9) is effective only against Botrytis bunch rot. It is the active ingredient in Vangard and one component of the premix Switch (cyprodinil + fludioxonil). Inspire Super has a full label in Maryland for use on grapes for control of PM, BR, Phomopsis and Botrytis (but not DM).

Growers who have had trouble controlling PM because of loss of sensitivity to other SI fungicides (e.g., Rally, Elite, Orius, Tebuzol) may want to consider switching to Revus Top or Inspire Super, especially during the critical period for protecting developing fruit from major diseases (the pre-bloom to 1<sup>st</sup> post-bloom sprays). Other options for controlling resistant strains of PM include: (1) adding 2-5 lbs/ac of sulfur to tank mixes containing Rally or Elite/Orius/Tebuzol; or (2) switching to fenarimol, an older SI that has recently been reformulated as Vintage SC (Gowan). Vintage is effective only against PM, not BR or Phomopsis.

## **Guidelines for Effective Use of Difenoconazole**

• Sensitive varieties. On non-vinifera grapes, especially V. labrusca and V. labrusca hybrids, difenoconazole may cause leaf burning or other injury. Adding difenoconazole to tank mixtures with

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materials that increase uptake (adjuvants, foliar fertilizers) may increase the risk of injury. **Do not use difenoconazole on Concord, Concord Seedless, or Thomcord grapes**. According to Syngenta, Revus Top is safe to use on these varieties:

Niagara	Fredonia	Catawba	Rougon	deChaunac
Riesling	Elvira	Leon Millot	Baco Noir	Foch
Chancelor	Chelois	Seyval Blanc	Delaware	Cayuga
Diamond	Chardonnay	Vidal Blanc	Cabernet Blanc	Aurora
Colobel	Chambourcin	Pinot Noir	Pinot Blanc	Pinot Gris
Gewurztraminer	Gamay Noir	Vignoles	Muscat Ottonel	Golden Muscat (Muscat var.)
Alden	Canadice (?)	NY Muscat	Yates	St Croix
Leon Millot	Merlot	Cabernet Franc	Interlaken	Cabernet Sauvignon Blanc
Pinot Grigio	Viognier	Backus	Steuben	Traminette
Vidal	Corot Noir	Dornfelder – German var.	Lemberger	Ravat

- Use an effective rate. Inspire Super at the high rate (20 oz/ac) and Revus Top at the supplemental label rate (7 oz/ac) provide equivalent amounts of difenoconazole per acre, about 1/4 of the seasonal limit.
- Adjust your spray program for the premix. When applying Revus Top, omit other DM materials such as
  mancozeb and captan from those sprays. For Inspire Super, omit any other botryticide from those sprays.
- Resistance management. Limit applications of any SI, including difference on azole, to two per year if possible. Rotate to another class of fungicide after each SI application.
  - If you apply Revus Top during the critical period, do not apply Revus for later-season DM control to avoid overusing mandipropamid. See Extension Fact Sheet 848, The New Guidelines for Developing an Effective Fungicide Spray Program for Wine Grapes in Maryland, 2010 for other options.
  - If you apply Inspire Super during the critical period, use Pristine or Elevate for later-season Botrytis sprays, not Vangard or Scala, which also contain cyprodinil.

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