



Bayer CropScience

## Information on the Special Emergency Use for Oberon<sup>®</sup> on Potatoes

In the 2008/09 season a new pest, the Potato/Tomato psyllid (*Bactericera cockerelli*) appeared in potato crops causing widespread damage. Not only were there significant yield losses but the psyllid was also spreading two plant diseases which severely affected tuber quality. Many psyllid damaged crops were not marketable.

Oberon, a Bayer CropScience insecticide, is used successfully against this pest in the USA and is described as a new modern insecticide that has low mammalian toxicity.

The NZ Potato industry approached Bayer CropScience regarding Oberon's suitability for NZ potato crops. Due the short time frame available, it was not possible to get full field use approval granted by EMRA (the Environmental Risk Management Authority) in time for this seasons use. Therefore a request for a Special Emergency Use was applied for and was granted by the regulatory authorities.

As part of this Special Emergency Use ERMA placed some controls on Oberon's use i.e Written notice will be given to all landowners/occupiers of adjacent properties, and places of common public assembly (e.g. schools, kindergardens, offices, etc) located within 100 metres of the area to be sprayed.

These controls reflect the fact that Bayer CropScience are currently completing the full field use assessments to ERMA and it is expected that this control will no longer be required for the next growing season.

If you have any further questions please contact the person noted on the Notification Form or alternatively ring Bayer CropScience 0800 33 44 60.