Brassicas

A guide to pesticide effects on beneficials

2020

About this guide

This guide provides information on the effects of pesticides on key beneficial insects that are important in brassica crops. The results presented in the guide below have been compiled from several sources which include scientific literature, international pesticide data bases, the results of testing that has been conducted for project VG16067 'Impact of pesticides on beneficial arthropods of importance in Australian vegetable production' and field observations. The intended use of this guide is to provide growers and agronomists with a better understanding of how best to use pesticides in an IPM program to maximize the impact of beneficial species.

The products included were selected because they are currently registered (in 2019) for use in brassica crops and because of their potential to be incorporated into IPM programs. Some products that are not considered to be IPM compatible have also been included as a comparison of relative toxicity.

About the testing

The information in this guide is based on the results of laboratory-based tests and not field tests. Laboratory tests are designed to be the worst-case scenario. In these tests the product is applied at the highest label rate to the most vulnerable life stage. This means that products with low toxicity are most likely to be very safe when applied to a crop and products that show medium to high toxicity have the potential to disrupt beneficial species. How disruptive a product is will depend on the frequency of use, application rate, the age of the crop, how well established the beneficials are at the time of application and if the crop is grown in the field or in a glasshouse.

Acute and sublethal testing

We used two levels of testing and the first is acute which aims to measure the impact of direct exposure to the product. In these tests beneficial species were exposed to the product for 24

or 48 hours and then the level of mortality was assessed. If mortality was less than 30%, they were then tested for sublethal effects. For the development of this guide sublethal tests were designed to answer two questions 1. For predators only - do the juveniles that survive the acute test develop into adults? 2. For predators and parasites – are adults that have been exposed to the product able to reproduce? The results of sub-lethal testing are only shown in this guide if the results differ from the acute toxicity. A blue triangle ▼ indicates that the results are a combination of both acute and sub-lethal. A white triangle ▽ means acute results only.

*The protocols for testing and the references for results that were not developed as part of this project are available in a separate document.

About the beneficial species

The beneficials tested are species that are commonly found in brassica growing regions around Australia. They are all naturally occurring and some are also commercially available. For the acute tests the juvenile stage of the predatory species was used and for the parasitoids the adult wasps were used.

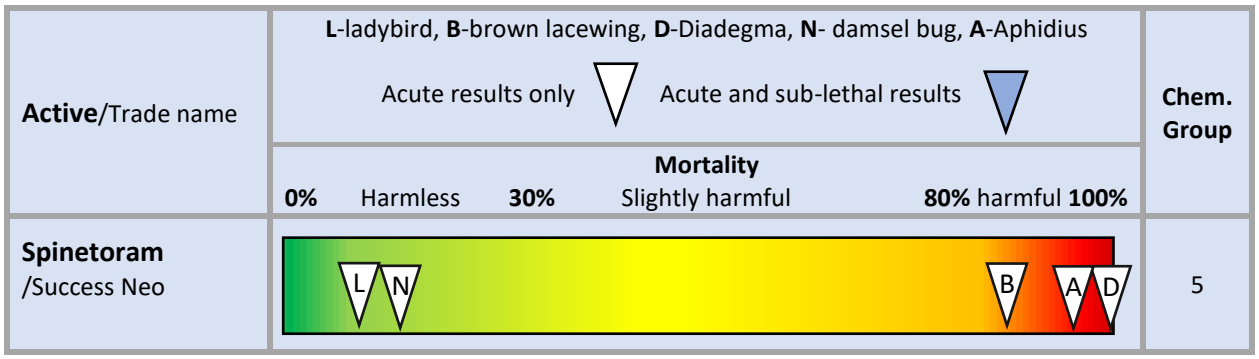
Table 1: Codes for beneficial species used in the guide

code		code		code	
					
D	**Diadegma** *(Diadegma semiclausum)* DBM parasite	**B**	**Brown lacewing** *(Micromus tasmaniae).* Aphid predator	**N**	**Damsel bug** *(Nabis kinsbergii)* Caterpillar predator
					
A	**Aphidius** *(Aphidius colemani)* Aphid parasite	**L**	**Ladybird** *(Hippodamia variegata)* Aphid predator		

How to interpret this guide

The relative toxicity for each species is indicated on a scale from 0% to 100% mortality as shown in the example below.

This example shows that Spinetoram is safe to ladybirds (**L**) and damsel bugs (**N**) but is harmful to Diadegma (**D**) and Aphidius (**A**) adults and brown lacewing larvae (**B**).



The decision to use this product will therefore be influenced by:

- Is there another product that that could be used that is less disruptive?
- How many other products have been used and what impact did they have on beneficials?
- Will aphid or Diamondback moth problems be made worse if populations of Diadegma, Aphidius and brown lacewings are disrupted?
- Will there be an economic loss if this product is not applied?

Pesticides and IPM

The results presented here are based on worse-case scenario laboratory testing. In the field it is likely that the effects will be less toxic for some of the products shown in this guide. However, the impact of pesticides on beneficial species is cumulative which means that the impact is the combined effects of all pesticides used. This is particularly relevant for growers wanting to maintain healthy populations of beneficial species on their farms.

DBM resistance and using Diadegma

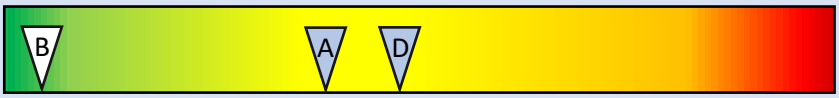
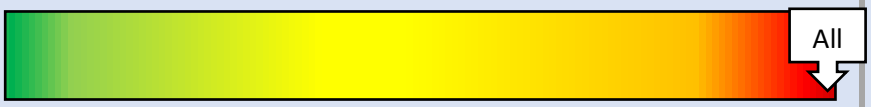
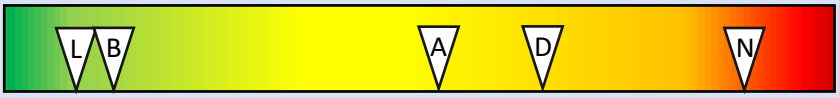
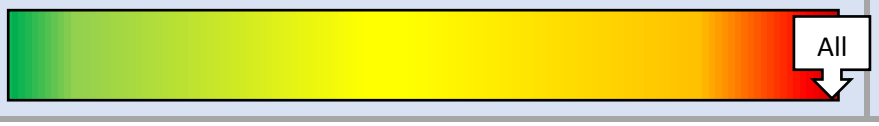
Diamondback moth (DBM) resistance to the group 28 products is a major concern for all brassica growers. With fewer products to choose from protecting beneficial species is now even more important. Diadegma is a wasp parasite that only stings DBM and plays a very important role in managing populations of DBM both on individual farms and whole districts. To support and encourage Diadegma use sequential plantings so that populations can build up and move to the next planting, reduce the use of products that are highly disruptive and do not spray products that are no longer providing adequate control of the pest. Adult wasps will live longer and lay more eggs if there is a flowering nectar source nearby.

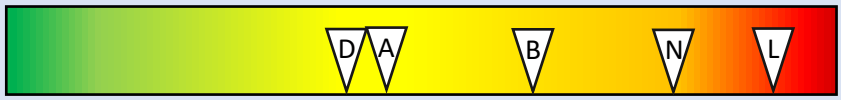
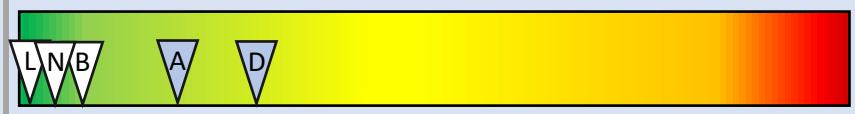
The guide for Brassicas

The information presented in the guide below is intended to be used as a support tool for IPM decision making and not to be interpreted as a list of “good and bad” or “safe and not safe” products.

*Information is currently not available for all the beneficial species listed in this guide which is why some of the products only show results for a few species.

Pesticides in order by active ingredient

Active/Trade name	**L**-ladybird, **B**-brown lacewing, **D**-Diadegma, **N**- damsel bug, **A**-Aphidius Acute results only / Acute and sub-lethal results **Mortality** **0%** Harmless **30%** Slightly harmful **80%** harmful **100%**	**Chem. Group**
Abamectin /Vertimec		6
Afidopyrofen /Versys		9D
Bacillus thuringiensis /Dipel and Xentari		11A
Chlorantraniliprole /Coragen		28
Chlorpyrifos /Lorsban		1B
Emmamectin Benzoate /Proclaim		6A
Fipronil /Regent		2B

Flubendiamide /Belt		28
Imidaclopoprid /Confidor		4A
Indoxacarb /Avatar		22A
Lambda-cyhalothrin /Karate		3A
NPV /Vivus		31
Pirimicarb /Pirimor		1A
Pymetrozine /Chess		9B
Spinetoram /Success Neo		5
Spirotetramat /Movento		23
Sulfoxaflor /Transform		4C

Fungicides in order by active ingredient

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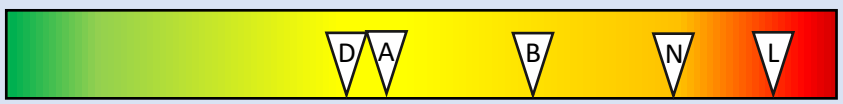
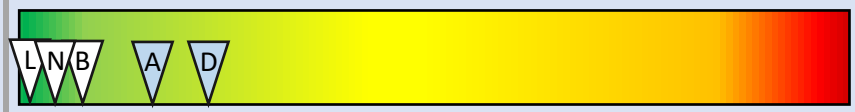
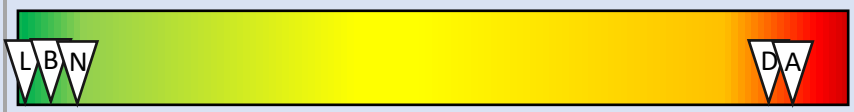
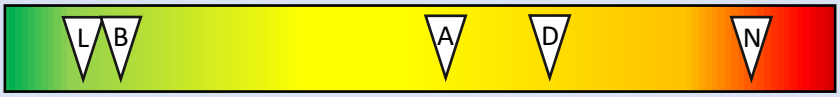
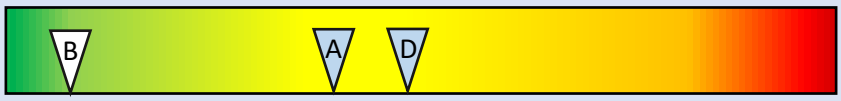
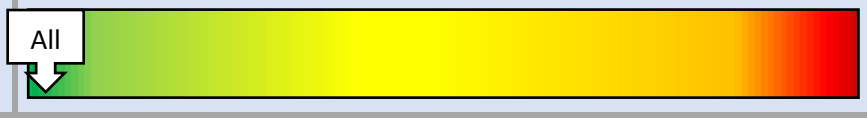
Azoxystrobin /Amistar		11
Boscalid /Filan		28
Cyazofamid /Ranman		9B
Mancozeb		1B
Oxathiapiprolin /Zorvec		49
Triadimenol /Bayfidan		3

Pesticides in order by common trade name

Trade name/Active	**L**-ladybird, **B**-brown lacewing, **D**-Diadegma, **N**- damsel bug, **A**-Aphidius ▽ Acute results only ▽ Acute and sub-lethal results **Mortality** **0%** Harmless **30%** Slightly harmful **80%** harmful **100%**	**Chem. Group**
Avatar /Indoxacarb		22A
Belt /Flubendiamide		28

Chess /Pymetrozine		9B
Chlorpyrifos /Lorsban		1B
Confidor /Imidacloproprid		4A
Coragen /Chlorantraniliprole		28
Dipel and **Xentari** /Bacillus thuringiensis		11A
Karate /Lambda-cyhalothrin		3A
Movento /Spirotetramat		23
Pirimor /Pirimicarb		1A
Proclaim /Emmamectin Benzoate		6A
Regent /Fipronil		2B
Success Neo /Spinetoram		5
Transform /Sulfoxaflor		4C
Vertimec /Abamectin		6

Versys /Afidopyrofen		9D
Vivus /NPV		31

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Project acknowledgement: This project has been funded by Hort Innovation, using the Vegetable research and development levy and contributions from the Australian Government. Hort Innovation is the grower-owned, not-for-profit research and development corporation for Australian horticulture.

Communications Manager
Hort Innovation
Level 7, 141 Walker Street
North Sydney NSW 2060
Australia
Email: communications@horticulture.com.au
Phone: 02 8295 2300